8
Inari Konkon
Morohe Yoshida

CHATTER
THERE ARE TWO KOJIS...?!
.....
N-N-NO... UMM...
CHATTER
...I AM...
CHATTER
...AH...
SLAM

Inari Konkon
Chapter 36
Morohe Yoshida

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Inari Konkon

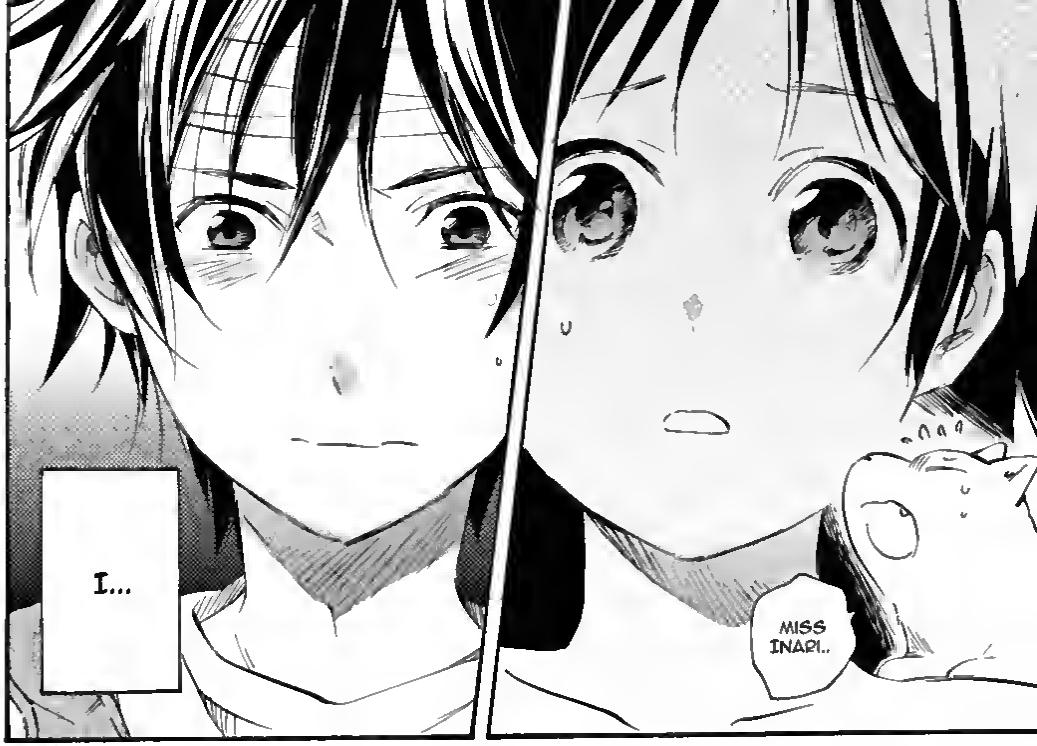
THIS IS MY LITTLE BROTHER!
W-WE'RE TWINS!!

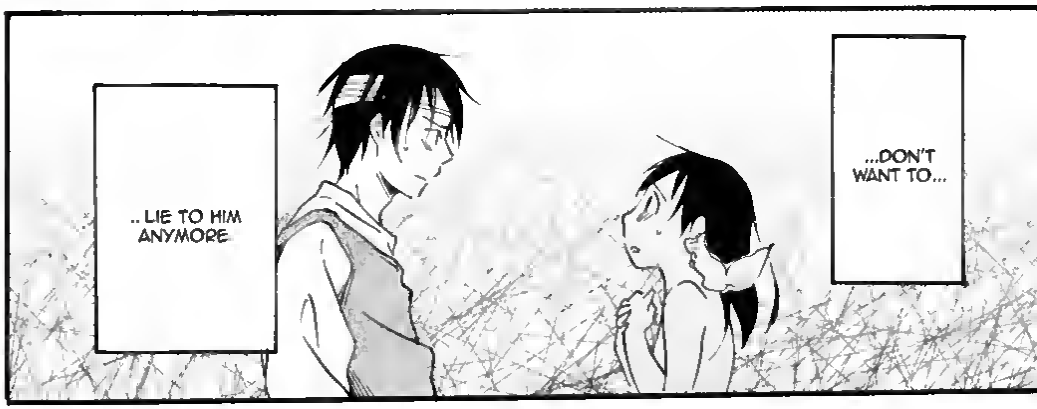
HUH?

LITTLE BROTHER?
YOUNGER TWIN..?
I ONLY REMEMBER YOU HAVING...
...ONE REALLY SMALL BROTHER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING COMING ALL THE WAY TO SCHOOL?
UH.. UMM...
DON'T MIND US. GO BACK TO THE GAME!
HUH? HUH?
TUG TUG
WHAAA?

NOW..
...I THINK WE BOTH KNOW I DON'T REALLY HAVE A TWIN BROTHER.
.....
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING DIFFERENT FOR A WHILE NOW.
I THOUGHT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU WEREN'T TELLING ME.
K-KOJI...

BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANTED TO BELIEVE...
I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU THOUGHT I COULDN'T BE THERE FOR YOU.
HOW COME YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME...
...INARI?


I...
MISS INARI..


..LIE TO HIM ANYMORE
...DON'T WANT TO...

USE IT WISELY TO HELP MAKE YOURSELF, AND THOSE YOU HOLD DEAR, HAPPY.
THE DIVINE POWER YOU HAVE IS YOURS

INA--
INARI, KONKON...
...CHAAANGE...
...BACK TO ME!
WHOOSH

UH...
...HUH?!

I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING, SO... WILL YOU LISTEN?
UH... SURE.

I'M SO SORRY.
I'VE BEEN LYING TO YOU FOR A WHILE NOW.

NOT JUST YOU...
...BUT ALSO TO KEIKO AND MY FRIENDS.

MISTRESS UKA...
...I BELIEVE THIS IS THE RIGHT DECISION.
WHEN I LIE, NOT ONLY DOES IT HURT HIM...
...BUT IT TAKES A TOLL ON ME, TOO.
WOW...

DIVINE POWER..
YEAH...

I'M REALLY SORRY I COULDN'T GO TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY BECAUSE OF TRAINING
D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

AND..
...FROM NOW ON I WANT TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING, SO...
...CAN WE BE FRIENDS AGAIN?

SKWEEZ
Y-Y—
UHH...

KOJI...
AND YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME.
YEAH .. WE'RE .. FRIENDS.

I'M SO GLAD!
YEAH.. ME TOO
SO...
...YOU WEREN'T AVOIDING ME BECAUSE YOU HATED ME..
HUH?
BLUSH
I MEAN... UH, NOTHING...
AH! THERE YOU ARE!!
TWITCH

ACK!
Koo ooo- jjjj !!!

I THINK MAYBE IT'S BEST IF YOU GO BACK TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE AND REST, BUT...
...IS THE GAME REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?
KOJI!
WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?!
I-I'M S-S-SOR--
SHOULD I TIE YOU TO THE BED?!

I KIND OF FEEL LIKE A WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS.
IT'S OKAY.
?
?

.....

NAH.

nine teen
バレンタイン
VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL
特集
とっちゃり!!
TA-DAH!
バレンタイン
VALENTINE'S DAY

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
UMMM...
MISTRESS UKA...?
彼岸参戦
バレンタイン

ACK!
OH! INARI! HELLO, COME IN.
HUH?!
MISTRESS UKA...!!

I DIDN'T WANT TO LIE TO KOJI ANYMORE.
HE SAID HE WON'T TELL ANYONE HE EVEN SAID HE'D HELP ME ..SO...

PERFECT TIMING! I'M TRYING TO DECIDE ON WRAPPING PAPER
U-UM... I HAVE SOMETHING TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT!

OOPS
I'M, UH, REALLY SORRY, BUT..
I TOLD KOJI ABOUT MY ABILITY TO CHANGE SHAPE
WHA?!
HUH?
HUH?!

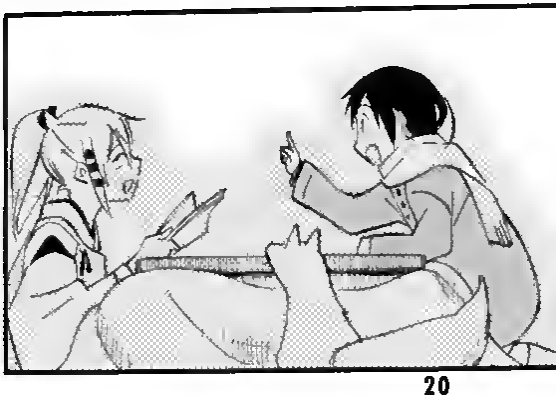
UMM...
MISTRESS UKA...?
ARE YOU LISTENING?
HUH? AH...
IT'S STRESSFUL WHEN YOU HAVE TO TELL A LIE..
...ESPECIALLY TO SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT.
彼氏様に
バレンタイン
...I THINK THAT'S FINE.
REALLY?!
Y--
YEAH..

I WONDER WHAT TOKA'S FAVORITE COLOR IS.
HUH? MY BROTHER? I DON'T KNOW...
MOST MEN PREFER BLUE, BUT TOKA'S A LITTLE STRANGE... HA HA HA
MISTRESS UKA. .
...
UHK
ピタッ
!!
YOU ARE GIVING HIM CHOCOLATES AS HIS FRIEND, RIGHT?
AH...
UMM
W-WELL, IT'S MY FIRST TIME! I WANTED TO MAKE SURE I MADE IT PROPERLY...
I SEE!

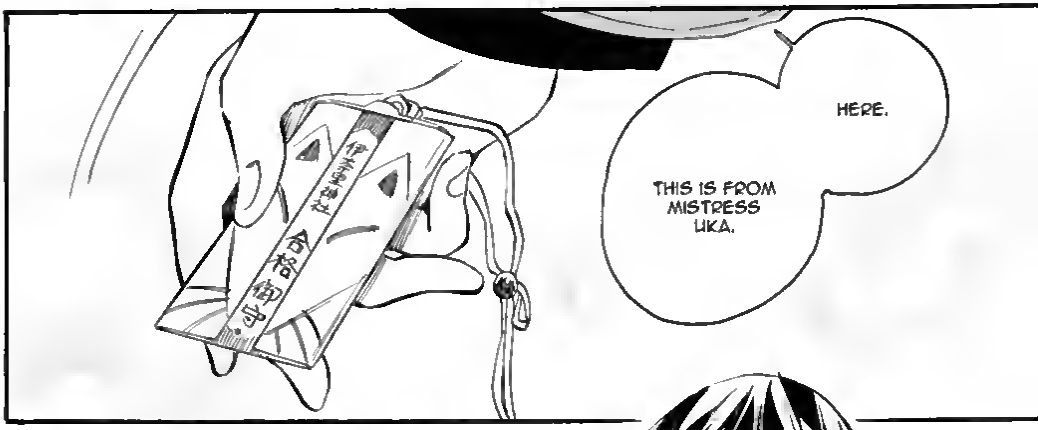
SWEETS MONTHLY
月刊スイー
2月号
FEBRUARY EDITION
THE BEST RECIPE TO MAKE HIM HAPPY
最強
CHOCOLATE FOR YOUR TRUE LOVE

REALLY? I CAN'T WAIT.
I'M GOING TO TRY TO MAKE THE BEST CHOCOLATE FOR YOU, TOO!

I CAN'T HEAR YOU...
MAKING CHOCOLATE IS FINE, BUT DON'T FORGET YOUR STUDIES.



HI!
GOOD, YOU'RE BACK FROM SCHOOL, TOKA. AREN'T YOU GOING TO SEE MISTRESS UKA?
NO, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT TEST TOMORROW. I NEED TO GO TO BED EARLY.
OH, OKAY.



*INARI SHRINE STUDY CHARM

SINCE I'M NOT ALLOWED TO DO SPECIAL THINGS FOR SPECIFIC HUMANS...
...THIS WILL BE FROM JUST ME, NOT AS A GODDESS...
...JUST LIKE WHEN YOU GAVE A CHARM TO KOJI.
I'M JUST COPYING YOU!
OH, BUT I PAID FOR IT...
.....
THINK OF IT AS ENCOURAGEMENT FROM BOTH OF US...

...
HM?
WAIT..
COULD IT BE..?

おでん

HOW DARE YOU LOOK DOWN YOUR NOSES AT ME AS IF TO SAY "OH, IT'S THAT GUY AGAIN..."!!
OH, GREAT...

GRR
...!
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME FOR A GOD I'M PRETTY SURE I'M BUSIER THAN YOU ARE
STOMP STOMP
.....

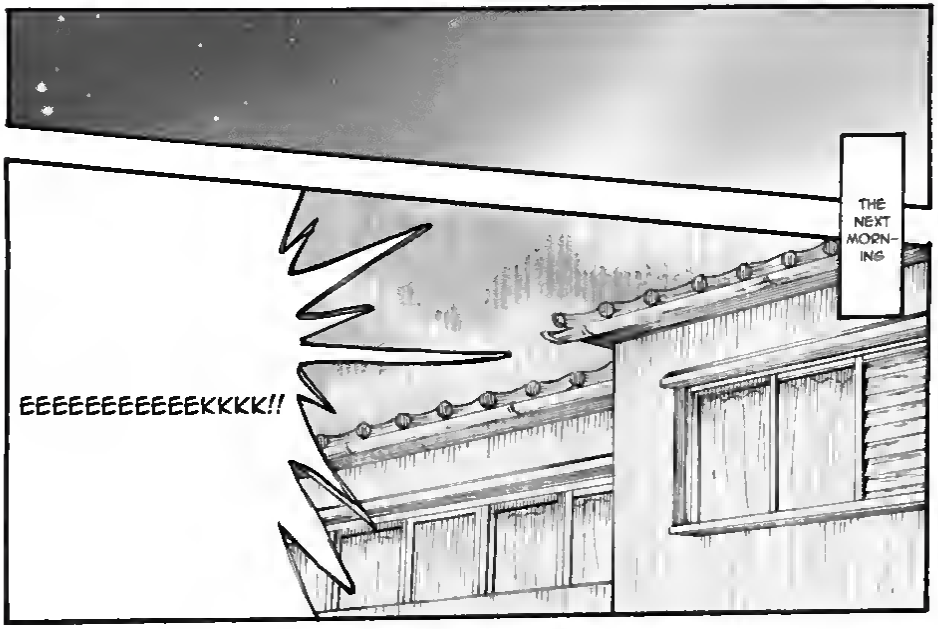
I AM ONLY WORRIED ABOUT UKA SHE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY.
"STRANGELY"? I DON'T THINK SO.
SHE IS!!
SHE'S BECOME ENRAPTURED BY THIS VALENTINE'S HOLIDAY OF THE HUMANS!
SHE IS A TOP-TIER GODDESS!
IF OUR MOTHER WERE TO FIND OUT, SHE WOULD DRAG UKA BACK TO THE CELESTIAL PLAINS RIGHT AWAY!
AND...
...ALL OF THIS, EVERY BIT OF IT...

...IS ALL YOUR FAULT, TOKA FUSHIMI! YOU SWINE!
H--
OOOOZZZE
ARE THOSE TEARS OF BLOOD?!
HOW IS THA--
Y-YOU EVEN SAID YOU WOULD HELP US GET BACK TOGETHER! YOU LIAR!!
THWAK
THWAK
THUNK
OW!
THUNK
OWW!
Took a direct shit
WE'RE GOING TO F--
SPLOOOSH
おてんば
BUN

M-M-MIGHT DIE FROM THE COLD...
SERIOUSLY, JUST DIE, WHY DON'T YOU?
ARRGGH!
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
.....
DAMN... GET OUT OF THE WATER QUICK, INARI.
BRR
BRR
DO YOU HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA...
...WHO HAS CAPTURED UKA'S HEART?
TUG

BRR
ガチ
?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BRR
ガチ
?
I HEAR YOU PLAN TO GO TO UNIVERSITY...
BUT WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR AFTER THAT?
!!
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL BE ETERNALLY BY YOUR SIDE IN THE FUTURE BEYOND THAT?
...
I...
I'VE ONLY EVER THOUGHT OF GETTING INTO A GOOD UNIVERSITY AND THEN FINDING A GOOD JOB.
I'VE NEVER HAD ANY OTHER CLEAR GOALS.
GET OUT OF THE WATER BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
SHE IS A GODDESS
DON'T EVER FORGET THAT.


THE NEXT MORNING
EEEEEEEEEEEKKKK!!

TOKAAA...!
KOFF KOFF
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

WHA? WHAT'S WRONG?
CLACK

I SWEAR...
...I'M GOING TO PUNCH THAT GUY ONE OF THESE DAYS.
KOFF
KOFF
THAT GUY
おい
Y-YOU HAVE A BAD FEVER!
WHEEZE
KOFF
KOFF
WHEEZE
FWUMP
IF...I WEAR A MASK .. I'LL BE FI--
WOBBLE
KLATTER
WHAT? WHY?
H-HATSUMA!! HELP ME PUT TOKA TO BED!
WHEEZE
...BUT...I CAN'T...
DAMMIT... I GOT...THIS FAR...
WHEEZE

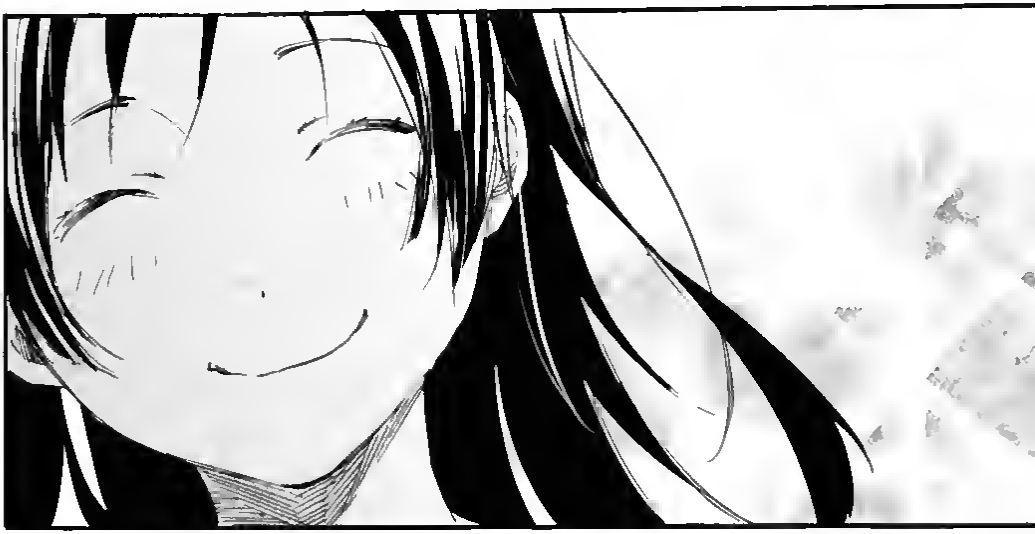
TOKA, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF..
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
IF YOU CAN GET BETTER BEFORE THE MAKE-UP EXAM NEXT WEEK..
IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT TAKING BETTER CARE OF MYSELF.
I HAVE TO GO TODAY.
I CAN'T EXTEND MY DEADLINE, EITHER..
KUZUHAAA...
MY ASSISTANT SAYS IT'S TOO LAST-MINUTE, AND THEY CAN'T COVER FOR ME
KOFF
YOU NEED TO REST!
I'LL BE FINE. I NEED TO TAKE THIS TEST.
S-SURE!
INARI, CAN YOU WATCH TOKA? I'LL BE SURE TO CHECK IN ON HIM WHEN I CAN.

MUMBLE
IF I TAKE A CAB..
I CAN MAKE IT.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
MUMBLE
CLACK
CAN'T FORGET THIS...
SKWEEZ
TOKA...

?!
TWITCH
ビクッ
INARI, KONKON...!
...CHANGE SHAPE INTO...
WHOOSH
...TOKA!!
INARI...

I'LL STAY HERE AND PRETEND TO BE YOU...
...SO YOU CAN GO TAKE YOUR TEST.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'VE ALREADY PROVED THE EXPRESSION, "IF YOU'RE STUPID, YOU WON'T CATCH A COLD" AFTER FALLING IN THAT POND. HOW IS TURNING INTO ME GOING TO HELP?
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL HEALTHY ENOUGH TO INSULT ME.
...!
O-OF COURSE!
DON'T FORGET YOU HAVE MISTRESS UKA'S SUPPORT. TAKE THAT AND GET GOING!

THANKS.



BA-DUMP
ドキ
DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO SNEAK OUT THE BACK DOOR!
AH HA HA HA... YOU GOT ME.
ドキ
BA-DUMP

キター
AH! TOKA?!
OH, CRAP!

SHE WON'T NOTICE IF YOU GO OUT THE BACK DOOR!
GOOD IDEA!

WHERE IS INARI?!
UHH...
SHE JUST REMEMBERED THAT SHE MADE PLANS WITH HER FRIENDS, AND RAN OUT...
PUUUUSH
I SEE NOW...
zzz

IF MISTRESS UKA AND TOKA GOT MARRIED...
...WOULD THAT MAKE MISTRESS UKA MY OLDER SISTER?
HEE HEE.

FOR EVERYONE.
PRAYER RECEPTION FOR ACADEMICS AND EXAMS
I HOPE IT ALL WORKS OUT...

I HOPE EVERYONE FINDS HAPPINESS.
Chapter 36 - END

Chapter 37

GOOD JOB, INA!
HEE HEE!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR HELPING ME, MOM.
I'M FINISHED!
I HOPE HE LIKES IT.
ME, TOO!

TOMORROW, I'LL MAKE SOME CHOCOLATES AFTER SCHOOL, AND THEN...
NO, THANKS. I WANT TO MAKE THEM MYSELF!
HEY, MOM...
CAN I HELP?
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH...
URRRGH...
TOKA!
OKAY, BUT HAS YOUR TEMPERATURE GONE DOWN?
SNIFF
YUP...
YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER DON'T GET A CHILL WHILE YOU'RE IN THE BATH, OKAY?
OKAY...
TOKA...
TOKA, YOU'RE BACK!
HOW DID IT GO? DO YOU THINK YOU PASSED THE TEST?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
KOFF KOFF

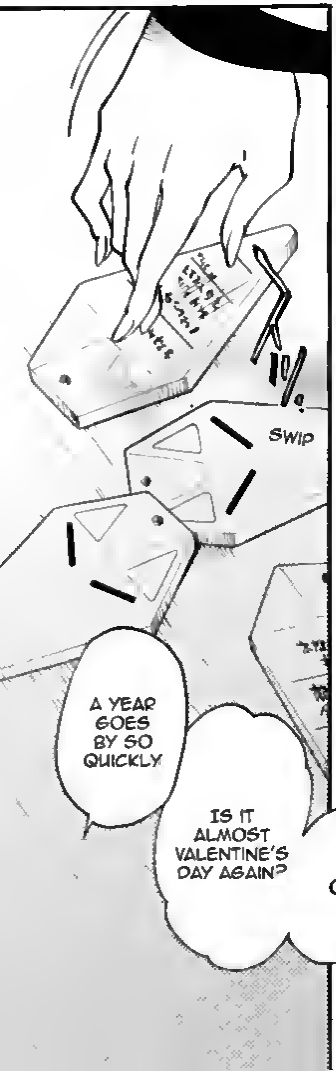
INARI.
YOU SOUND WORSE CHANGE CLOTHES AND GET INTO BED.
KOFF KOFF
KOFF
PAT
I MANAGED, SOMEHOW...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
KOFF
PLEASE DON'T TELL HER THAT I CAUGHT A COLD.
"HER"?
.....

YOU MEAN MISTRESS UKA?
WHY CAN'T I TELL HER?
.....
HUFF
SHE...
HUH...?
. SHOULDN'T WORRY HERSELF OVER ME
I'M NOTHING SPECIAL TO HER.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

RUSTLE
ゲホ
KOFF
INARI, KONKON--
WHOOSH
I GET IT AFTER JUNIOR HIGH COMES HIGH SCHOOL..
...AND AFTER THAT, UNIVERSITY...
AS I GET OLDER...
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT WHAT MASTER TOSHI SAID YESTERDAY?
NEVER MIND THAT.
HURRY AND CHANGE BACK BEFORE MOM COMES.
HUH?! OH, RIGHT.
FWIP
FWIP
...WE'RE ONLY GOING TO GROW FURTHER APART.
BUT IS THAT WHAT I REALLY WANT...?
KEEPING IT A SECRET WILL ONLY MAKE MISTRESS UKA SAD.
...LET HER WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HE SHOULD...

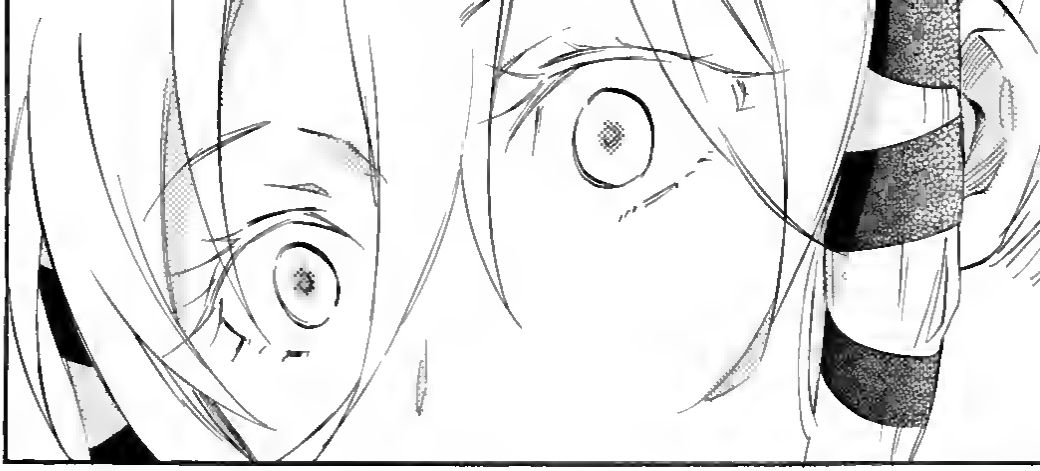
I MEAN, MISTRESS UKA ALSO...
TOKA...
I WONDER HOW HIS TEST WENT...
AHH...
I WANT TO KNOW BUT I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER HIM BY ASKING.
MI—
MIS—
MIS—
IF HE DIDN'T DO VERY WELL, HE MIGHT BE DEPRESSED.
AHH BUT IF HE WAS CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO TELL ME ABOUT IT..
MISTRESS UKA!!
ACK!

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, MISTRESS UKA?
WHA?
Y-YEAH, I'M LISTENING WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
HONEST-LY!!


SWIP
A YEAR GOES BY SO QUICKLY
IS IT ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY AGAIN?
OH!

OH, WOW!
スゴ
スゴ
PLEASE READ TODAY'S WISHES.
AH HA HA...
SORRY...
FOCUS! FOCUS!

I SHOULDN'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT TOKA.
I AM A GODDESS...



MISTRESS UKA?
...?

HEH HEH HEH... TOMORROW THE WAR BEGINS...
I CAN DO THIS! I MADE A SCARF AND EVERYTHING!

WHISPER
AND CHOCO-LATES
WHISPER
FOR KOJI.
WHISPER
URRRGH...

WHAT IF I MISUNDERSTOOD, AND END UP DESTROYING OUR FRIENDSHIP RIGHT WHEN WE'VE MADE UP?
I THOUGHT I COULD LET MYSELF BELIEVE HE MIGHT LIKE ME BACK..

WE'RE ALL FEELING ANXIOUS.
BUT...
?!
H-HEY, INARI...
...CAN WE TALK FOR A SECOND?

WHAT?!
SHIRO CAUGHT A COLD?!
OH! ARE YOU TELLING ME KON-THE-FAMILIAR IS HERE NOW?
YEAH! RIGHT HERE!!
YEAH, AND HE KEEPS SAYING HE WANTS TO MEET KON...
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD COME VISIT AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?
OF COURSE!
RIGHT, KON?
Y-YES... AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T USE MY TAIL TO WIPE HIS NOSE AGAIN.

I WISH YOU COULD SEE KON, TOO
WHENEVER I CHANGE SHAPE, KON MAKES THE SCARIEST FACES!
HEY!
.....

MUST BE NICE..
HEY
LOOK
WAIT. DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE KOJI HAS A THING FOR INARI?
WHAAAAT? ARE THEY ACTUALLY GOING TO GET TOGETHER?!
.....
...?

EEEEK!
PBBBT!
ハックション!
PBBBBBBBT
REALLY?
TOKA CAUGHT A COLD, TOO? IT'S REALLY GOING AROUND.
THERE IS A COLD GOING AROUND, BUT THAT WASN'T THE CASE WITH TOKA...
?
HEE HEE HE REMEMBERED MY BROTHER'S NAME
HELPING MAKE DINNER
PBBBT PBBBT
OH, RIGHT. I CAN TELL HIM NOW.

ACTUALLY, THE DAY BEFORE TOKA'S TEST...
...A GOD NAMED MASTER TOSHI THREW US IN A POND...
WOW, WHAT A MEAN GOD.

THAT SAME GOD SOMETIMES COMES TO OUR SCHOOL. YOU KNOW, THAT OVERLY HANDSOME GUY?
THAT GUY? HE'S A GOD?!
WOW...

HE CALLS THAT HIS HUMAN FORM..
THAT'S CRAZY
I'M SO GLAD...
...THAT I CAN TALK TO KOJI.
...ABOUT...
...THINGS LIKE THIS.

HM?
KRIK
I CAN'T GET THE SALAD DRESSING OPEN...!
NNNNGH
REALLY? HERE, LET ME OPEN IT.
AH!
NO, I CAN...
...!
I MEAN...
SURE!
OKAY!
COULD YOU OPEN IT FOR ME, PLEASE?
I NEVER KNEW...

SKWEE—
HA!
POP!
WOW! YOU OPENED IT JUST LIKE THAT!
AH! I-IT WAS NOTHING...
...JUST HOW MUCH RELYING ON SOMEONE YOU LIKE...
...COULD MAKE YOU HAPPY.
PBBBT
CRASH
OW!
RATTLE RATTLE

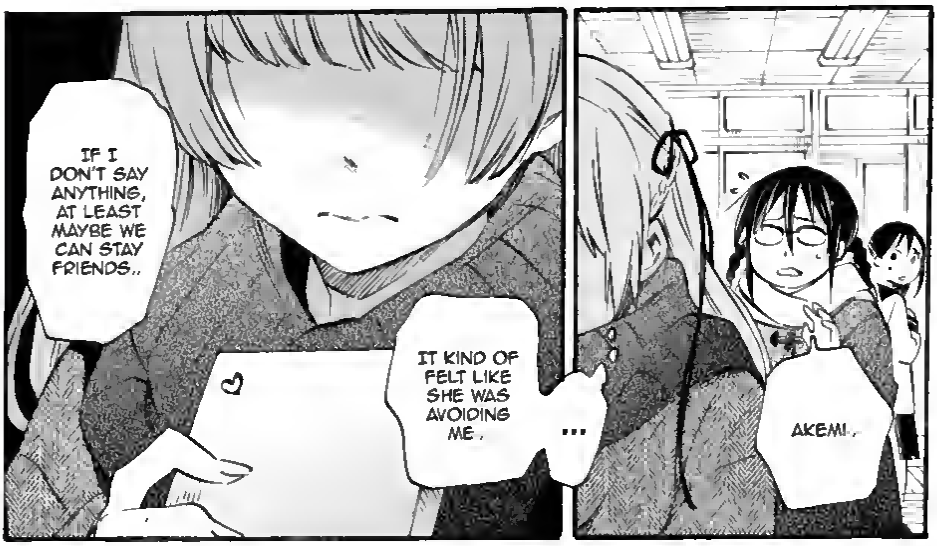
Uuu...
Oww
I HOPE THAT THIS TIME, I WON'T HAVE TO CHANGE INTO SOMEONE ELSE...
IN ORDER TO TELL HIM...
...HOW I FEEL...

TO KOJI
舟波橋くんへ。
伏見いなり
FROM INARI
N-NOW, WHEN DO I GIVE THESE TO HIM..?
MORN-ING
BRR
AFTER SCHOOL, I GUESS? WELL, WHENEVER THE TIMING SEEMS RIGHT.
INARI!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.
CHIKA! THANKS! AND GOOD MORNING!
!
IT'S JUST A TEN-YEN CHOCOLATE, BUT..
...HERE'S ONE FOR YOU, KEIKO, AND ONE FOR YOU, AKEMI.
OH! I-I HAVE SOME, TOO...

?
KEIKO?
.....
?
WHAT'S WRONG? LOOK, SWEETS!
I'VE...
...DECIDED THAT THIS YEAR...
...I'M NOT GOING TO ACCEPT CHOCOLATES FROM ANYONE.

HUH?!
WHA...?
チラ
PEEK
...!
I SAID I DON'T WANT ANY!
B-B-BUT WHY?! YOU LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING FREE SWEETS EVERY YEAR!
YEAH! AND DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULD TRY TO ENJOY THE HOLIDAY WITH US THIS YEAR?!
ARGH!
ARGH!
ARGH!
.....

I HAVE REALLY BAD CRAMPS TODAY.
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO GYM CLASS, EITHER. I'M GOING TO SEE THE NURSE.
K...
KEIKO... WHY?


IF I DON'T SAY ANYTHING, AT LEAST MAYBE WE CAN STAY FRIENDS..
IT KIND OF FELT LIKE SHE WAS AVOIDING ME.
...
AKEMI.

AKEM---
I'M FINE.

WHAT WAS WITH...
..THAT FACE?

YOU'D THINK I WAS THE BAD GUY HERE.
KEIKO!
INARI?
WAIT...
WAIT UP!
I DON'T GET IT! YOU COULD AT LEAST ACCEPT GIFTS!
NEVER MIND.
I DON'T HAVE TO IF I DON'T WANT TO.
THEN, WHY?
AT LEAST TELL ME THE REASON!
WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?

UGH
ALL RIGHT...
I FOUND OUT THAT AKEMI LIKES ME

I OVERHEARD HER BY CHANCE, BUT, REALLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...TH-THINK AKEMI IS...
...SERIOUS...
I-I...
H-HOW...DID YOU--
HUH?

"CREEPY GUY"?
..SHE'S HAD FEELINGS FOR YOU!
EVER SINCE YOU SAVED HER FROM THAT CREEPY GUY..

YOU ACTUALLY KNEW ABOUT THIS?
YOU..
UM, UM, SO...

IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD TELL AKEMI TO GIVE UP ON ME.
B--
...
YEAH.
JEEZ..
BUT, WHY? THAT'S TERRIBLE.
AKEMI FINALLY WORKED UP THE COURAGE TO ACCEPT HER FEELINGS...
...THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS HEAR WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY!
イラ!!
GRR...

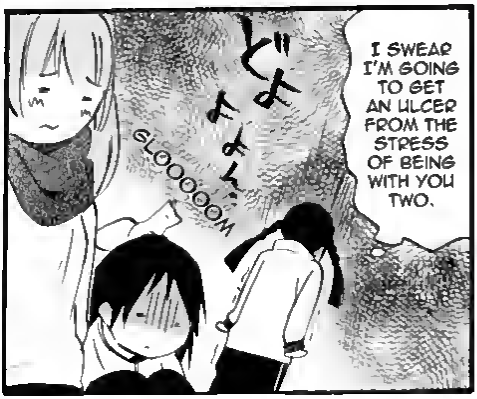
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HER FEELINGS!
ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT SHE WAS MY FRIEND!

THAT'S THE BELL.
YOU HAVE GYM CLASS, RIGHT?
DON'T BE LATE.
DING DONG
コーン
DING DONG
...
THIS SUCKS

WOW!
KOJI, THAT'S A NEW RECORD!
AWESOME!
REALLY?
WOOO!

KOJI IS POSITIVELY SPARKLING TODAY!

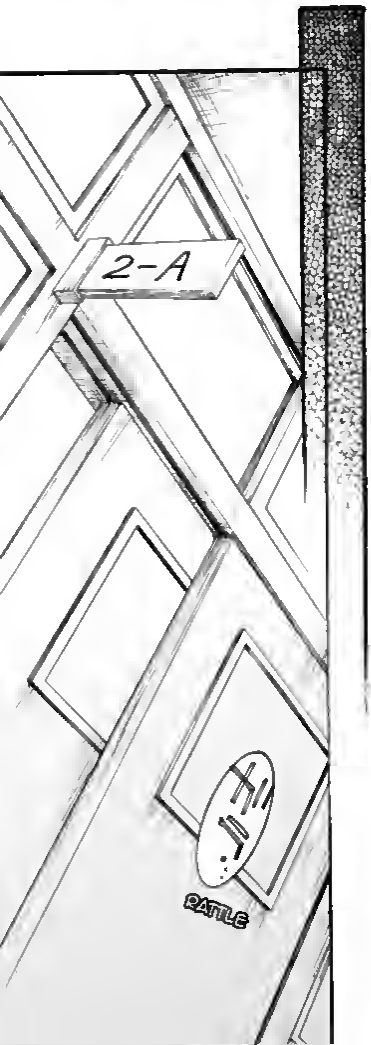
GLOOM
GO!
YAY!


I SWEAR I'M GOING TO GET AN ULCER FROM THE STRESS OF BEING WITH YOU TWO.
GLOOOOM

KOJI...

OH...
AH!
.....

SNIFFLE


2-A
PATTER

INARI...?
I WAS THE ONE...
..WHO ENCOURAGED AKEMI...
...TO BE HONEST WITH HERSELF ABOUT HER FEELINGS.

Chapter 37 - END

Chapter 38
2-A
KOJI!

STAARRE
UM... THANKS.

HERE! THIS CHOCOLATE IS FOR YOU!
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT? TAKE IT!
HUH? BUT...
O-OKAY..

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE HIM YOUR GIFT?
KLATTER
G-GOOD QUESTION... MAYBE AFTER SCHOOL...?
AH!

ARE YOU TRYING TO KEEP ME FROM FEELING DOWN?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
B-BUT...
...YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE THESE ..
...CHOCO--
GHFP

HUH?!
KLATTER
WAIT...
WHAT?!
...
THEY'RE GONE
HUH?

?!
THE CHOCOLATES AND SCARF ARE GONE...!!

W-WHY...?
THEY WERE RIGHT HERE IN MY DESK!
WHY?!
INARI...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

DOES...
. THIS MEAN SOMEONE STOLE THEM?!
B-BUT, WHO WOULD DO THAT?
WHY WOULD THEY..?!
MINAMI...

WHAT IF MINAMI TOOK THEM?
HUH?

AH!
W-WHAT AM I...
...!
SORRY...
...
NO WAY...

FWIP
WHAT'S GOING ON?
.....
AHH I REALLY NEEDED THAT NAP.
.. SAYING?
?
.....
HOW COULD I EVEN THINK SUCH A THING?
UM...
I...
...
MINAMI IS A NICE GIRL...
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
INARI..

I'M GOING TO SEARCH FOR THE CHOCOLATES AND THE SCARF!
MAYBE THEY FELL OUT OF MY DESK AND THE WIND BLEW THEM AWAY SOMEWHERE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HUFF
HUFF
SNIFF
ONCE YOU SUSPECT SOMEONE...
...IT'S EASY TO SUSPECT THEM AGAIN, BUT---
INARI!!

ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
...!
I...
I LOST SOMETHING IMPORTANT..
REALLY? I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR IT.
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU LOSE?
I PROMISED HIM I'D TELL HIM EVERYTHING...
...CHO...

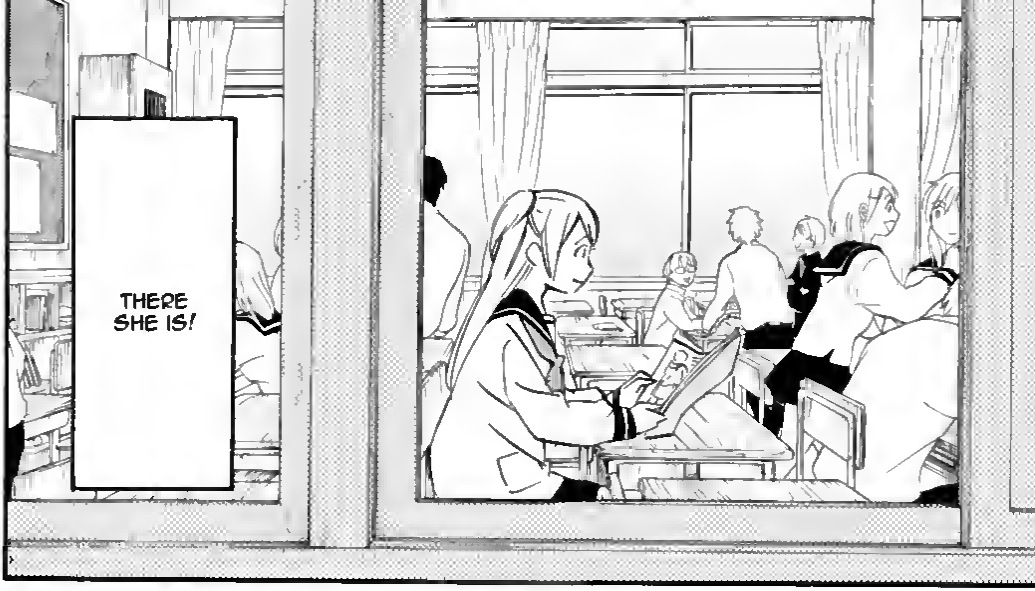
CHOCOLATES...
AND A SCARF, TOO..
...FOR VALENTINE'S DAY...
...
CAN YOU THINK OF ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THEM?
I DON'T WANT TO SUSPECT ANYONE, BUT...
..YEAH, MAYBE ..

IN THAT CASE...
WHAT IF YOU CHANGED INTO A FRIEND OF THAT PERSON AND ASKED THE PERSON DIRECTLY?
HUH?
HUH?!
B-BUT, IS IT OKAY TO CHANGE SHAPE JUST FOR THAT?
PLUS, IT STILL FEELS LIKE I'M SUSPECTING THAT PERSON...
SKWEEZ
!!
WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?
WHY SHOULDN'T YOU CHANGE SHAPE TO HELP YOURSELF?
...TO HELP...
..MYSELF...

YOU'RE FOCUSING TOO MUCH ON THE NEGATIVE. EVEN IF YOU DO SUSPECT THIS PERSON...
...YOU'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BELIEVE THEY'RE INNOCENT, RIGHT?
AND EVEN THEN, IF YOU MAKE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE...
.. AT LEAST TODAY...
...I'M HERE FOR YOU!
I'LL HELP YOU OUT.

WHOOSH
INARI...
...KONKON...
...CHANGE SHAPE INTO KYOKO!

HEH.
HEH HEH...
OH WOW! YOU REALLY CHANGED INTO ANOTHER PERSON! THAT'S SO COOL!
WELL, UM...
HERE I GO, THEN.
OKAY!
GOOD LUCK!
2-E


THERE SHE IS!

FWIP
FWIP
LOOKS LIKE THE REAL KYOKO ISN'T HERE, EITHER.
?
I NEED TO ASK HER BEFORE THE BREAK ENDS...
SHUFFLE
GOOD, SHE'S BY HERSELF
SHUFFLE

?
I REMEMBERED THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...
KYOKO, WHAT IS IT? WEREN'T YOU GOING TO THE BATHROOM?
UH, YEAH. UM...
UH...
H-HEY, MINAMI.

HEE HEE
I WONDER IF SHE GAVE THEM TO HIM ALREADY.
I-IT IS ABOUT INARI FUSHIMI'S CHOCOLATES AND SCARF...
!
?
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO ASK ME ABOUT, RIGHT?
UHH... YOU MEAN...?
I'M SORRY, KYOKO.
...I THINK...
YOU ASKED KOJI THOSE THINGS FOR ME, BUT...
SO IT WASN'T MINAMI!!
...!!
I'M SO GLAD!

...I WON'T BE GIVING CHOCOLATES TO KOJI AFTER ALL.
HUH?
I WANT TO HELP THE PERSON I LIKE...
...TO FIND HAPPINESS.
IF I REALLY WANTED TO BE HIS GIRLFRIEND, I SHOULD HAVE TRIED HARDER, LIKE OTHER GIRLS...
...BUT, IN THE END...
...I DIDN'T EVEN GET HIM ANY CHOCOLATES, AND EVEN IF I HAD, I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE ASKED SOMEONE ELSE TO GIVE THEM TO HIM FOR ME.
SO, FROM NOW ON...

KYOKO! CAN YOU HELP ME WITH TODAY'S ENGLISH ASSIGN-MENT?
SURE! WHICH PART?
?
BAWWW
K--
KYOKO, WHAT'S WRONG?!
AH!

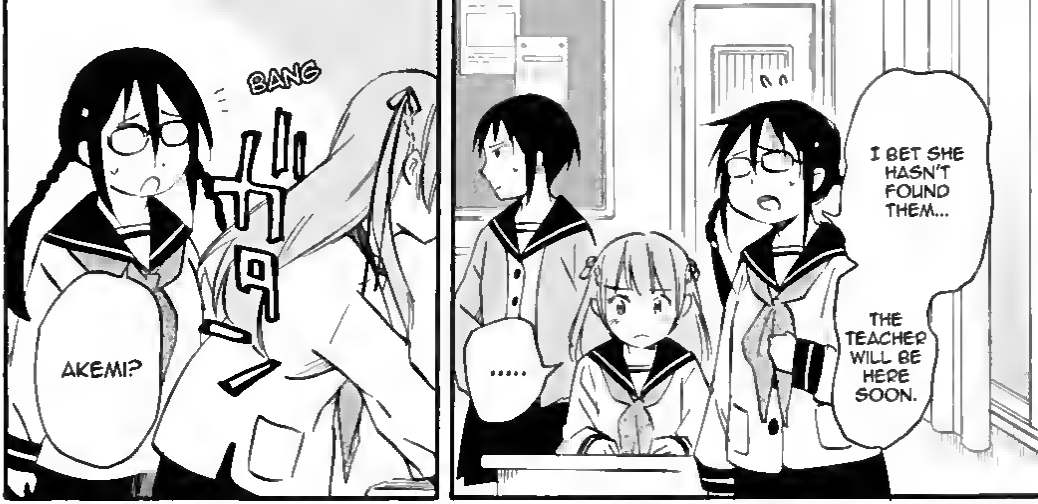
W-WELL...
RUN AWAY!
I M-MUST BE OFF...!
MAKE SURE YOU GO TO THE BATH-ROOM!

MINAMI...

I'LL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO HER LATER FOR SUSPECTING HER...
FWIP
FWIP
MAYBE..
MAYBE THEY DID GET BLOWN AWAY, OR MAYBE I DROPPED THEM SOMEWHERE.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO SEARCH WHILE I CAN DURING THE BREAK...
LUV
LUV
DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD CHANGE BACK NOW?
MISS INARI...
OH, RIGHT!

I WANT TO HELP THE PERSON I LIKE...
TO FIND HAPPINESS.
MINAMI MUST KNOW...
.. WHO KOJI LIKES.

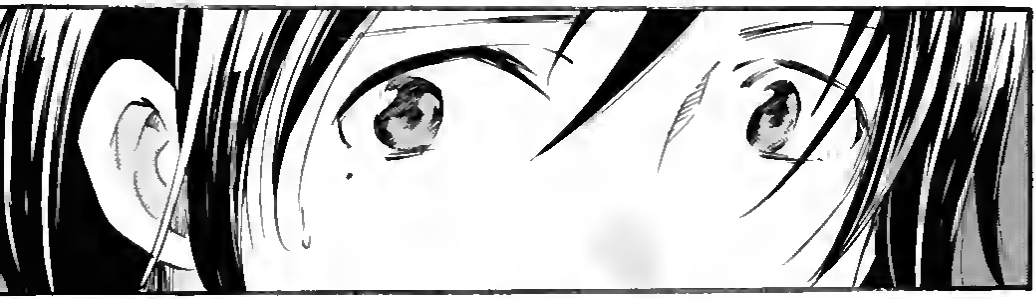
I'M SURE THERE'S SOMEONE...
...THAT HE LIKES.
EXCUSE ME!
KYOKO!
HUH?
DING DONG
DING DONG
INABI STILL ISN'T BACK YET...


BANG
AKEMI?
.....
I BET SHE HASN'T FOUND THEM...
THE TEACHER WILL BE HERE SOON.

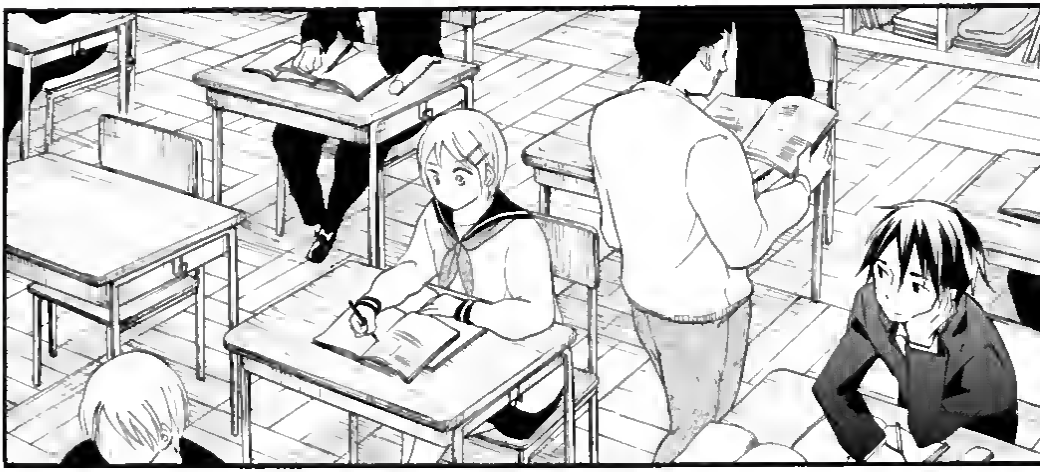
I'M GOING TO HELP INARI SEARCH..
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? CLASS IS ABOUT TO START...

IT'S JUST THAT...
AKEMI, ARE YOU GOING TO SKIP CLASS?! NO WAY!!
WHAAAP
MAKE UP SOME EXCUSE TO TELL THE TEACHER

I DID THE SAME THING!
I KNOW, BECAUSE...
I KNOW HOW HARD INARI WORKED ON THOSE CHOCOLATES AND THAT SCARF!



AKEMI...
OKAY, TAKE YOUR SEATS.
CLASS IS ABOUT TO START.
RATTLE
RATTLE
AH...!
SHAA



..THEY MUST BE FOR SOMEONE WHO MEANS A LOT TO HER.
SHE WAS SO DESPERATE TO FIND THEM...

I WONDER WHO SHE'LL GIVE THEM TO...

..WILL I BE ABLE TO SMILE AND SAY I'M HAPPY FOR HER?
IF SHE FINDS THE CHOCOLATES AND THE SCARF AND IF SHE FINDS LOVE WITH THAT PERSON!..

!!
THESE...
KYOKO!
TO KYOJI
FROM INARI
WHA? HUH?
I STOLE THEM...
...FROM INARI'S DESK
HUH... WHO?
...I THROW THEM AWAY?
SH-SHOULD...

IF SOMEONE FINDS OUT THAT I TOOK THESE...
WOULD THAT...
IT HAPPENED AGAIN.
..MAKE KOJI HATE ME?
HERE'S ANOTHER GIRL WHO FELL FOR KOJI...
..THAT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.
I KNOW YOU TOLD ME TO DO WHATEVER I WANTED, BUT..
...I'M SCARED THAT KOJI MIGHT HATE ME..
..SO...
...WOULD YOU THROW THEM AWAY FOR ME?

MISS INARI?!
YOU MUSTN'T FORGET WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR TRAINING!
HOW DARE YOU...?
!!
POOAEP
EEK!
YOU WON'T EVEN TRY TO DO THINGS YOURSELF...
I'M DOING IT AGAIN...
...EVEN THOUGH I JUST FINISHED MY TRAINING...
...AND YET YOU WOULD THROW AWAY ANOTHER PERSON'S PRECIOUS FEELINGS!
TELLING SOMEONE HOW YOU FEEL...
...OR EVEN JUST WRITING A FEW WORDS, LIKE "I LOVE YOU," IN A LETTER...
...
..WAIT.

AGAIN
AND
AGAIN...
...THE
SAME
THING.
I MIGHT AS WELL BE TALKING TO MY OLD SELF.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH COURAGE THAT TAKES?!
IT'S LIKE I JUST KEEP REPEATING...
...THE SAME THINGS OVER AND OVER.
MY DIVINE POWER?
I KNOW, I HAVE TO STOP IT.
BUT...
MISS INARI, YOUR DIVINE POWER...
IF YOU MAKE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE...
I HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT..

WHOOSH
I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
I'M HERE FOR YOU.

AH...
IT STOPPED. THANK GOODNESS!
SMACK
HUH?!
MAKE SURE YOU GIVE THAT BACK
AND ALSO MAKE SURE...
...YOU TELL KOJI HOW YOU FEEL...

IN THE END, SHE HAS TO DECIDE TO CHANGE FOR HERSELF.
AH...!
SHAA
...IN YOUR OWN WORDS!
...IS NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I DID IN THE PAST.
WHAT SHE DID...
!

KYOKO...?
...?!

!!
HEY!
GI--

BAM
OW!
GIVE THOSE BACK!!
WAIT.. I KNOW YOU! YOU ALWAYS COME TO SUPPORT THE BASKETBALL TEAM!
YOU TOOK THEM?!
!
MY FRIEND PUT SO MUCH HARD WORK AND FEELING INTO MAKING THEM...!
PLEASE, GIVE THEM BACK!!
Y-YOU KNEW...?

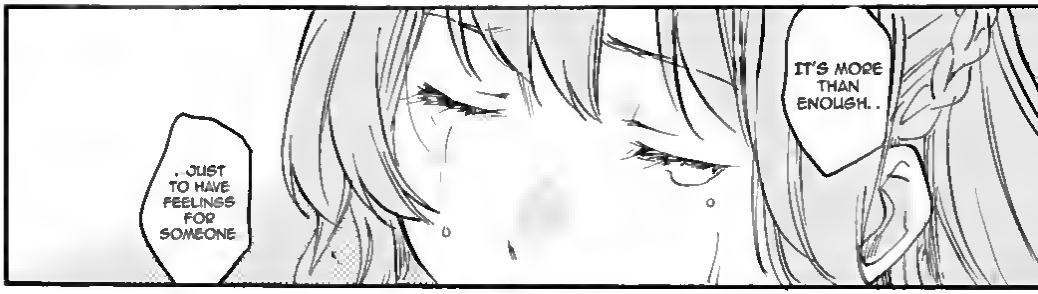
YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH THE BASKETBALL TEAM, AND ALL THE BOYS AT SCHOOL LIKE YOU!
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW THAT FEELS!
...!!
HUH?
FWAP
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW, AKEMI?!
A GIRL LIKE YOU NEVER HAS TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.
I'M SO JEALOUS!

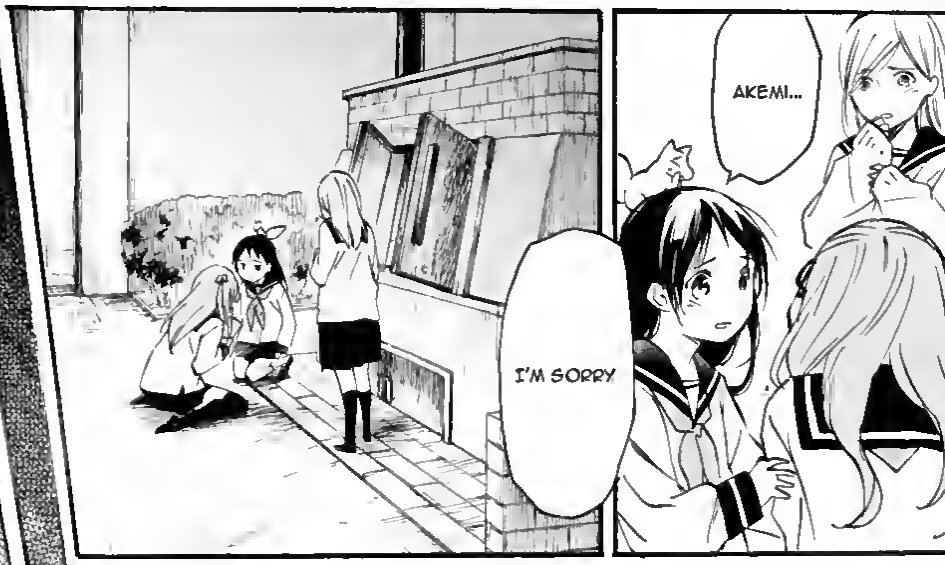
I'LL NEVER BE LIKE YOU!!
TO KOJI
FROM INAGI
FWOOM
NO!
DON'T!!

HUH...?
A--
AKEMI?!

AKEM--
I'M THE SAME...
THE FEELINGS I HAD FOR THAT PERSON, THOUGH...
...WILL NEVER GO AWAY.
A FRIEND TOLD ME THIS...
I WANT THE PERSON I LIKE TO LIKE ME BACK.
BUT...
. AS MUCH AS I WISH FOR IT, IT WON'T COME TRUE
MAYBE IT'S JUST NOT MEANT TO BE

WOULD YOUR FEELINGS CHANGE IF SOMEONE DID THIS TO YOU?
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO. .
...THOSE FEELINGS WON'T DISAPPEAR EASILY.


IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH. .
. JUST TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR SOMEONE


AKEMI...
I'M SORRY

.....
CHATTER
HUH? HUH?!
WHAT? WHY?!
IT GOT KIND OF BURNED, SO..
...THE SCHOOL NURSE CUT IT FOR ME.
"BURNED"?!
IT'S KIND OF REFRESHING! LIKE A WEIGHT'S BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS

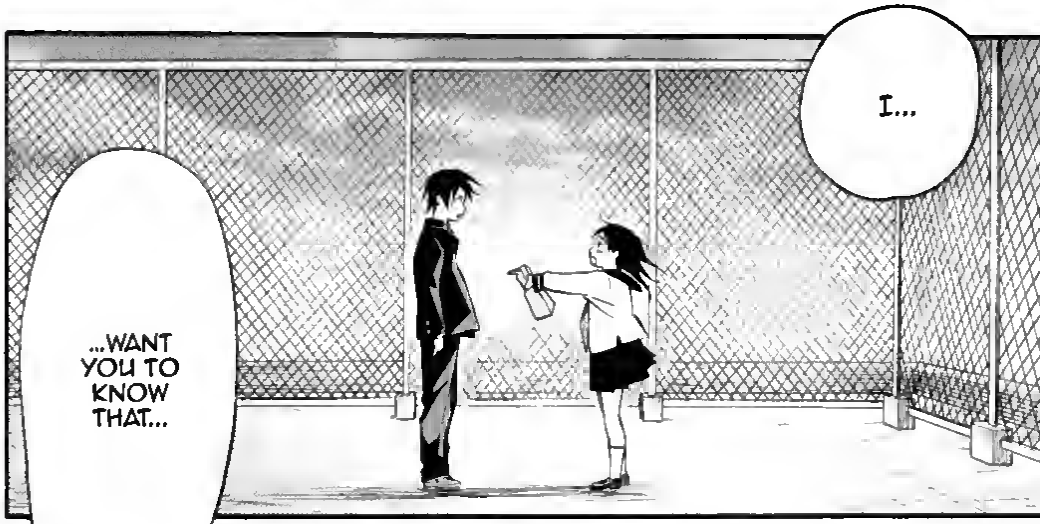
LET'S EAT LUNCH!
W-WAIT A MINUTE...
WHAT HAPPENED?!
INAPI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME ANYMORE. GO DO YOUR BEST!
O-OKAY, THANKS!
WELL... ACTUALLY, WHAT HAPPENED WAS...

WHAAAAT?!
DON'T TELL ME SHE CUT HER HAIR BECAUSE SOMEONE BROKE HER HEART!!
NO HUMAN WOULD BREAK HER HEART!
SHE FOUND THEM...

?!
K-KOJI...
UM. UH
TUP TUP
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT..
I FOUND THESE, SO, UM..
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

K-K-K--
KOJI...
?
UM...
A-ALSO, UM, WELL...
UH...
FWIP!
TODAY AFTER SCHOOL, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY!
MEET ME ON THE ROOF!
WHOA... IS SHE CHALLENGING HIM AGAIN?
S-SURE...
...?
HUFF HUFF

WHEN I MADE THIS GIFT...
...I MEANT TO POUR ALL OF MY FEELINGS INTO IT, BUT...
...IT TURNS OUT THAT IT'S ALSO FILLED WITH THE FEELINGS...
THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT FEELING OF LOVE ALL AROUND THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT...
...AND ONE OF THOSE FEELINGS IS MINE ALONE.
...I'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS.
IT'S NOT JUST...
THIS FEELING CAN'T BE CONVEYED IF I CHANGE INTO ANOTHER PERSON.
...MY DIVINE POWER...
IT'S ALSO THE WARMTH FROM ALL THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

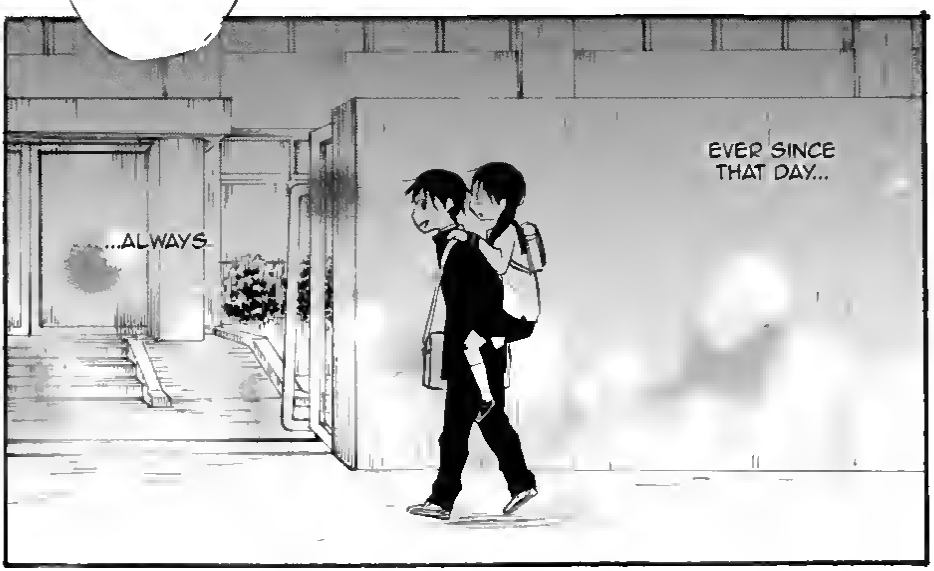


Chapter 38 - END

Chapter 39

I LIKE YOU.

I...
...HAVE ALWAYS...
...LIKED YOU...
...KOJI I'VE ALWAYS...
...BEEN WATCHING YOU.


EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
...ALWAYS.

1-B
NOD NOD
SO WHICH ONE IS THIS TANBABASHI PERSON?
THAT ONE WITH THE BEDHEAD?

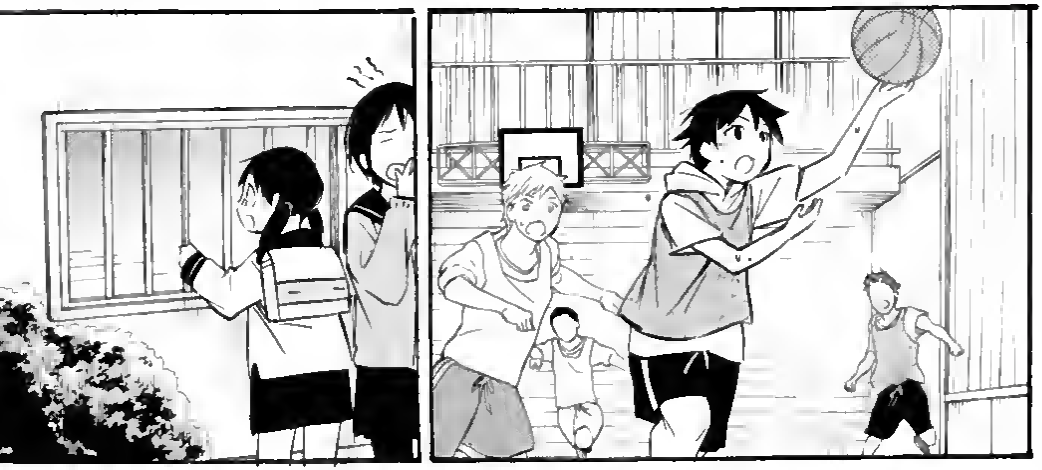
LOOKS LIKE A WEAKLING TO ME

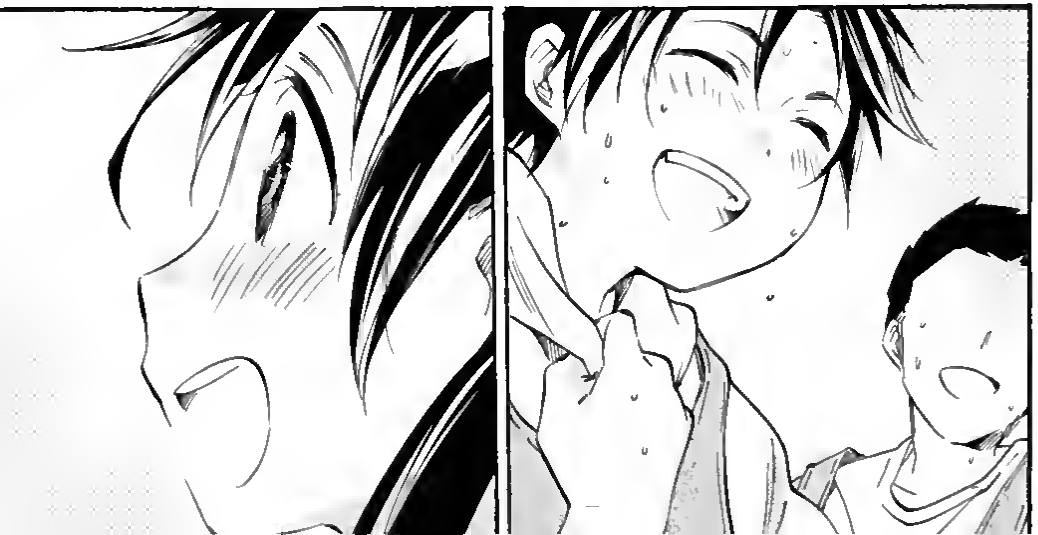
SOMEONE WHO'S GOOD AT FIGHTING MAY BE COOL, BUT...
...I THINK A NICE PERSON WHO HELPS PEOPLE OUT IS MUCH COOLER.

D-DO YOU REALLY THINK BOYS HAVE TO BE TOUGH?

HEY, DAD!
HE'S ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM!
HIS FIRST NAME IS KOJI...
EVEN IF YOU START PLAYING BASKETBALL NOW, YOU'LL NEVER BE ANY TALLER.
I'M NOT THE ONE PLAYING!
DAD, YOU HAVE SOME BASKETBALL COMICS, RIGHT? CAN I READ THEM?
SURE.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW MORE.
DUNK!!
DUNK!!

I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE THINGS THAT KOJI LIKES





FWEET!
23
18

SHE USED TO BE SO SHY...
...AND NEVER TOOK AN INTEREST IN OTHERS BEFORE...

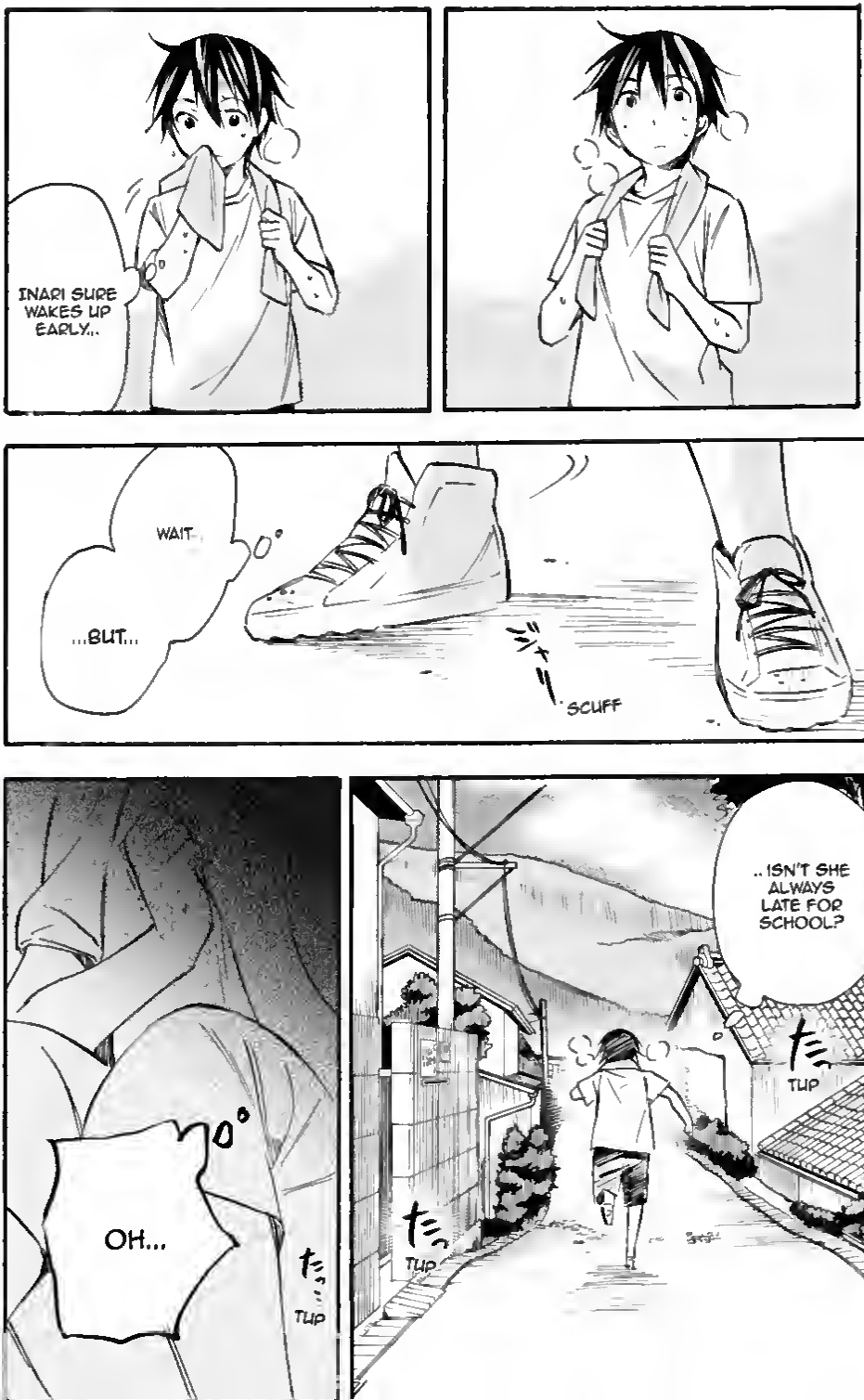
AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME, TOO...
SHE'S CHANGED.
I WANT TO KNOW...
...SO MUCH MORE ABOUT YOU, KOJI.
...
THAT WAS A SURPRISE.

I'M ALWAYS WATCHING YOU, KOJI.
NO ONE'S EVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO ME BEFORE...
KOJI, LET'S GO!
TUG
TUG
..OTHER THAN THE TIME HER BROTHER HELPED US STUDY FOR OUR TEST.
DATE...?
D--
SO, KOJI, HOW WAS YOUR DATE WITH INARI?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
..EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS...
.....
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW A LOT ABOUT HER...

たっ
TUP
ハッ
HUFF
たっ
TUP
ハッ
HUFF
ハッ！
HUFF
ガチャッ
CLACK
AH...
カタン
CLICK
伏見
初午
苞菜
とうかいなり
FUSHIMI
HATSUMA
KUZUHA
TOKA
INARI
MORNING
FWIP
GOOD MORNING!

SLAM!
STILL AS UNFRIENDLY AS EVER
HE'S NOT LIKE INARI AT ALL
.HM?

FWISH
...!!


INARI SURE WAKES UP EARLY...
WAIT...
...BUT...
SCUFF
OH...
TUP
TUP
TUP
..ISN'T SHE ALWAYS LATE FOR SCHOOL?

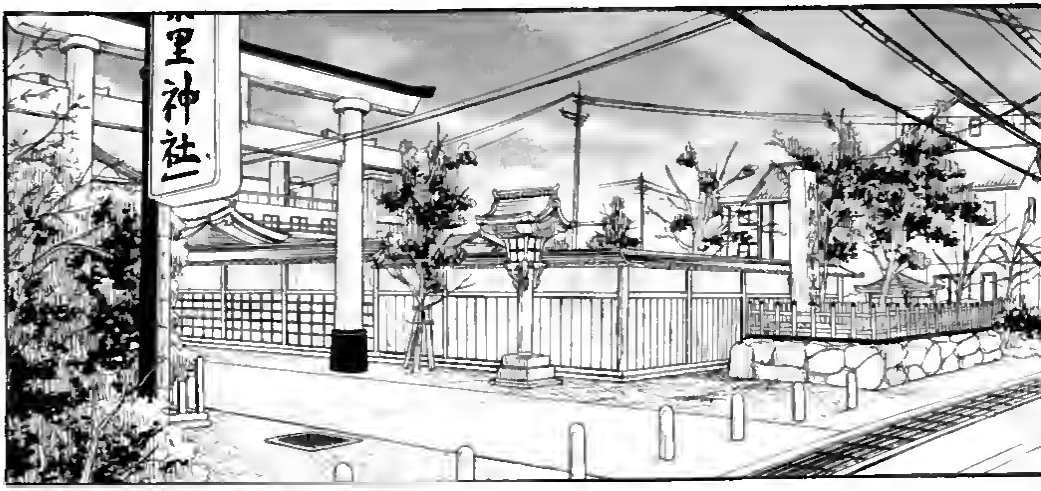
I WANT TO SEE MORE OF YOU, TOO, INARI.
...MY GOOOOOSH!
OUR EYES MET! BUT WHY? HE USUALLY KEEPS JOGGING BY!
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BEFORE I REALIZED IT...
...YOU WERE ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT
I WANT TO KNOW MORE AND MORE ABOUT YOU...
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I ALSO...
ME, TOO...

I LIKE YOU.

KOJI!
MY...

...WISH...
...CAME TRUE!

WELL, UH...
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO...
...SPENDING MORE TIME WITH YOU, INARI.


里神社

TUP
.....
TUP
TUP
.....
TUP
?!
BUMP
...!!
KAW
KAW
TUP
.....
TUP
.....
TUP
TUP

O-OH YEAH!!
INARI, DO YOU REMEMBER...
...WHEN YOU DROPPED OUT OF THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL PLAY?
...!
YOU SAID YOU WOULD TELL ME THE REASON SOMEDAY...
MINAMI...
...GAVE A LETTER TO ME TO GIVE TO YOU...
...AND WELL...
MY.. DIVINE POWER GOT RID OF IT...
I HATED THAT SIDE OF ME SO MUCH AND...

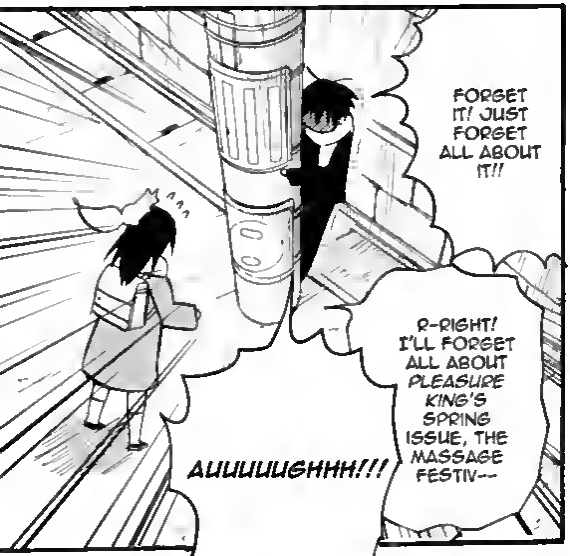
ALSO, WHEN MINAMI TOLD YOU SHE LIKED YOU IN THE ART ROOM..
..THAT WAS ACTUALLY ME.
WHAAAT?! NO WAY!
...
...
SO THAT'S WHY...
KOJI?
UHH ..
BY THE WAY...

YEAH WHY?
YOU SAID...YOU GOT YOUR DIVINE POWER..
..AROUND SPRING, RIGHT?

L-LAST SPRING .. THERE WAS ONE DAY WHEN..
...HAJIM BROUGHT ME HOMEWORK...
..A-AND HE SEEMED KIND OF..WEIRD..
.....

I-I-I AM SO S-S-SOR--

WHAM!
WHAM
WHAM
AUUUGH!!
K-KOJI?!


FORGET IT! JUST FORGET ALL ABOUT IT!!
R-RIGHT! I'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT PLEASURE KING'S SPRING ISSUE, THE MASSAGE FESTIV---
AUUUUUGHHH!!!

.....

HERE IT IS!
OOH SEXY♥
PLEASURE KING
快王
4
大洪水!
BLUSHHHHH

...I REALLY HAVE CHANGED SHAPE INTO ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE.
THINKING ABOUT IT NOW...

I WONDER IF INARI TOLD KOJI HOW SHE FEELS

GONG
ガラン
GONG
ガラン
I HOPE IT WENT WELL.
...
H-HEY...
I-I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND I THINK I WILL ACCEPT CHOCOLATES THIS YEAR AFTER ALL.
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOCOLATES FOR YOU, KEIKO.
HUH?!
THIS IS FOR YOU, CHIKA.
W-WAIT...

WHAT THE HECK!! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUT HERE?!
BECAUSE...

...THIS CHOCOLATE WASN'T MEANT TO BE GIVEN TO SOMEONE WHO'S JUST A FRIEND
SO I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU, KEIKO

I'LL JUST RUN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE NOW TO BUY MORE FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
OKAY.

I...
AKEMI'S BEEN WORRYING ABOUT THIS FOR A LONG TIME NOW. MAKE SURE YOU GIVE HER A PROPER ANSWER.
YOU'VE NOTICED, RIGHT?
...WANT TO BE HER FRIEND!
THAT'S BECAUSE...
YEAH, THAT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD ANSWER

..I WANT US ALL TO STAY FRIENDS.
ALL FOUR OF US!
FRIENDS, HUH?
YEAH...
THEY'RE MY VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS
I BOUGHT YOU SOME CHOCO-LATE!
OH, THA—
THIS IS JUST ONE TEN-YEN CHOCO-LATE!
DON'T COMPLAIN, KEIKO!

I WANTED TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO HIM...
...SO I MADE A WISH TO THE GODS...
...AND THE POWER I GOT HAS HELPED ME COUNTLESS TIMES.
I WANT TO BE AKEMI!
FINALLY, MY WISH HAS COME TRUE.

I DON'T HAVE TO FORCE MYSELF TO CHANGE MY FEELINGS.
I JUST WANT TO BE FRIENDS.

I DON'T WISH I WERE A BOY
IF I WASN'T WHO I AM NOW...
I WOULD NEVER HAVE MET HER.

...DON'T THINK...
I...
I KNEW...
...I'LL WANT TO TRANSFORM INTO SOMEONE ELSE AGAIN.

...THAT DIVINE POWER...
...WAS TOO MUCH FOR A HUMAN TO HANDLE.
AND THAT HUMANS HAVE THE POWER...
...TO SOMEDAY OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES ON THEIR OWN.
I KNEW...
...THAT ONE DAY, THEY WOULD...

Chapter 39 - END

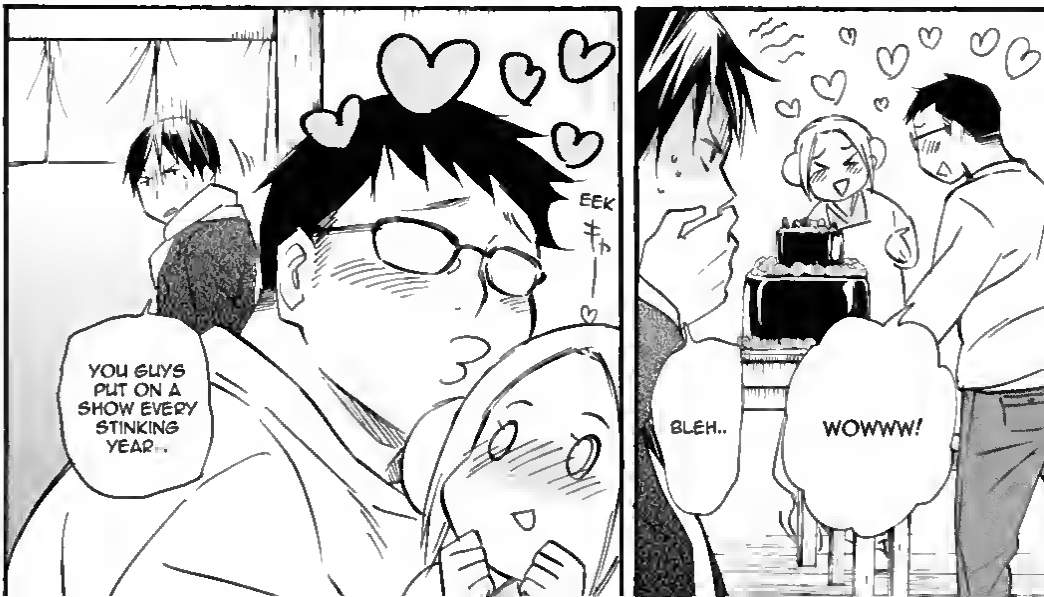
Chapter 40

KITSUNEZAKA HIGH SCHOOL
THAT WAS A SURPRISE!
WHEN DID YOU EVEN TAKE THAT TEST?
A-ACTUALLY I SNUCK OUT THAT DAY I WAS SICK. THE PERSON SLEEPING IN MY BED WAS MY BODY DOUBLE...
. WHICH IS THE TRUTH.

YOU WENT ALL THE WAY THERE KNOWING YOU WEREN'T GOING TO PASS?
.....
STILL... WITH THAT FEVER, I KNEW THAT EITHER WAY I WAS GOING TO FAIL.
DON'T TELL MOM NOW... LET'S KEEP IT A SECRET BETWEEN US MEN!
OH! OKAY, SURE! JUST BETWEEN US! I LOVE SECRETS!

SO YOU WERE JUST A NUISANCE TO THE OTHER STUDENTS!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING REALLY HARD UNTIL NOW, BUT EVEN SO...
...YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE! YOU HAVE TO START GIVING MORE CONSIDERATION TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
BONK
OW!
SORRY.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
HUH?
YOU'VE FINALLY STARTED THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT..

Love Hatsuma
TA-DAH!
IT'S KUZUHA'S SPECIAL HATSUMA LOVE-LOVE CHOCOLATE CAKE!
WELCOME HOME!
C-COULD THIS SMELL BE...?!
AUGH!


EEK
YOU GUYS PUT ON A SHOW EVERY STINKING YEAR..
BLEH..
WOWWW!

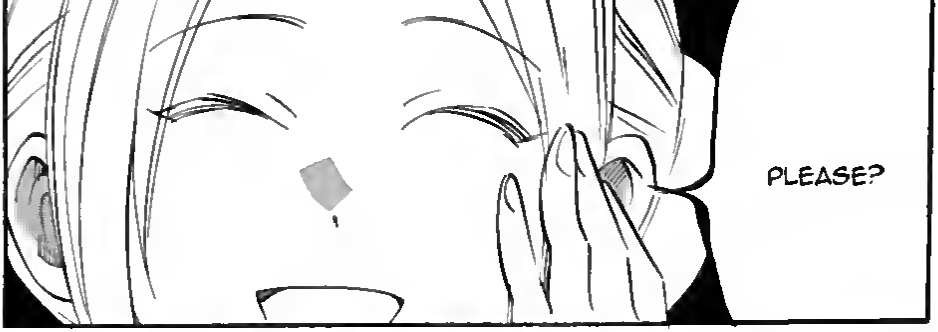
GRRR
WHAT?!
YOU DIDN'T GET ANY CHOCOLATES FROM ANYONE THIS YEAR AS USUAL, RIGHT?
TOKA, I GUESS I CAN SPARE YOU ONE BITE...

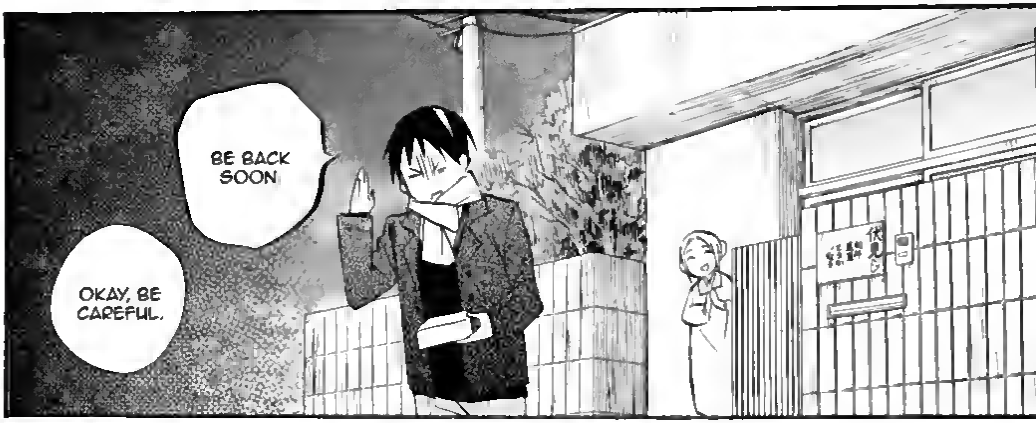
Don't make that face!
SAY WHAT?!
WELL, I DO FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT TURNING HER DOWN SINCE I HATE SWEETS, BUT..
HEH

TWITCH
I SEE...
BUT YOU DID AT LEAST ACCEPT CHOCOLATES FROM THE GIRL YOU LIKE, DIDN'T YOU?
I might cry
BUT IT'S BEEN A TRADITION TO LISTEN TO YOU COMPLAINING THAT GIRLS IGNORE YOU...
DON'T YOU THINK TOKA HAS SOFTENED A BIT LATELY?

FWIP
I'M GOING TO DO MY HOMEWORK!!
EVEN IF YOU HATE SWEETS, THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS ACCEPT HER CHOCOLA--
THERE IS SOMEONE, RIIIGHT? A GIRL YOU LIIIKE?
SLAM
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL BE ETERNALLY BY YOUR SIDE IN THE FUTURE BEYOND THAT?
SHE IS A GODDESS. DON'T EVER FORGET THAT.
EVERY TIME I MEET HER I GET THIS FEELING LIKE I COULD STAY THAT WAY FOREVER...
.....

TOKA!
LIKA'S SPECIAL TOKA LOVE-LOVE CHOCOLATE CAKE!
SCRITCH
..MY FUTURE...
BUT I'M HUMAN I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE...
SCRITCH
..A CAREER PATH... RETAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS...
..FINDING A JOB...
SCRITCH
SCRITCH SCRITCH
KNOCK
AH!
TOKA
KNOCK
CAN YOU TAKE THIS INARI SUSHI TO THE SHRINE AGAIN, PLEASE?
SORRY, MOM, TODAY IS KIND OF..
CLACK
FWUMP
FWUMP
FWUMP
FWUMP


PLEASE?


BE BACK SOON.
OKAY, BE CAREFUL.

...
I CAN STILL REMEMBER...

納

...HOW MUCH THIS PLACE SCARED ME TO DEATH WHEN I WAS A KID
EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED...
EVEN ME.

ARE YOU AROUND..?
HEY, I'M HERE!
BAM
SHOW YOURSELF, INARI GODDESS!!
HEY, COME OUT ALREADY
...
NOT A WORD...
INARI GODDESS... u—
u...
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE! COME OUT ALREADY!
...
HOW OLD DOES HE THINK HE IS...?
PFFT
GIGGLE
PFFT... HOW EMBARRASSING...
ON-LOOKERS

WHOOOSH
...?!
WHAT'S
CLACK
CLACK
UKA...!

D-DID...
...YOU WANT SOME-THING?
UH... N-NO...
JUST THE USUAL...

..I DO NOT HAVE ANY CHOCOLATES TO GIVE YOU.
..FROM MY MOM...
FIRST, LET ME JUST TELL YOU...
HMPH
WHA?!
YOU WOULD ONLY BE TROUBLED IF A GODDESS GAVE YOU SOMETHING. YOU'RE A HUMAN
.....
WHY NOT?

YOU KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT...!
FWOOSH
WHY...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU CAUGHT A COLD?
!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME NOT TO LIE TO YOU, AND SAID I COULD TALK TO YOU ABOUT ANYTHING

AND YET, YOU KEPT A SECRET FROM ME!
HU?
PAT
BA-DUMP
DON'T TOUCH ME!!

INARI WAS A NORMAL GIRL IN THE MIRROR WORLD...
AND I WAS NOT IN HER LIFE
AS A GODDESS, WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE—
DID CHOOSING ME REALLY MEAN HAPPINESS FOR INARI?
...WAS TO STAY IN THE CELESTIAL PLAINS UNTIL I FADED FROM HER MEMORY.
...BECAUSE..
...I PROMISED YOU I WOULD!
I-I..
I CAME BACK TO THE HUMAN WORLD BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE.
...!
I CAME .. BACK—

BUT...
...TOKA...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE IN THE HUMAN WORLD...
...THAT I...
I...
...

...I WISH I WERE A HUMAN!
I WISH I WERE A HUMAN!
I WISH I WERE A HUMAN SO MUCH...!!

I USED TO LOVE WATCHING OVER YOU, OVER INARI, AND OVER ALL THE HUMANS, WHILE ALL OF YOU WERE GROWING UP.
BUT, NOW .
I'M SO WORRIED...

...THAT THE OLD ME WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT.
THESE ARE THE KINDS OF THINGS...

...I'M SO WORRIED, AND AFRAID...
EVERYTHING THAT SHOULD MAKE ME HAPPY SCARES ME...

I HAVE THE FEELING THAT ONE DAY...
...THERE WILL BE NO PLACE FOR ME, AS A GODDESS, IN ANY OF YOUR LIVES!
O--

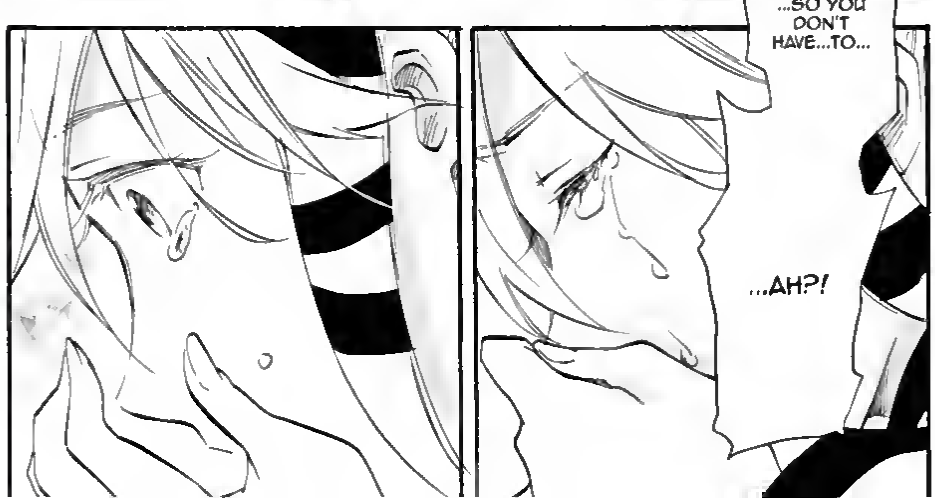
FOR HOW LONG CAN I PROMISE HER THAT WE'LL BE TOGETHER?
OF COURSE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR YOU!
INARI AND I WILL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU...
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL BE ETERNALLY BY YOUR SIDE IN THE FUTURE BEYOND THAT?
FOR HOW LONG ...?

I KNOW THAT YOU CAUGHT A COLD THE DAY BEFORE YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
...AND THAT PEOPLE AT YOUR SCHOOL ARE SAYING THAT YOU DIDN'T PASS.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT...
HUH?

I KNOW.
I KNOW, BECAUSE A GIRL WHO KNOWS YOU VERY WELL...
...CAME TO TELL ME.
...EVERY-THING ..
IF...
?!
HEY!
IF ONLY...
...I COULD BE THAT GIRL...

LOOK, HERE'S THE INARI SUSHI FROM MY MOM YOU LIKE HER COOKING, RIGHT? GO ON, EAT SOME!
J-JUST HOLD ON A SECOND. CALM DOWN...
S-STOP CRYING!

I-I THINK YOU'RE FINE THE WAY YOU ARE.
I MEAN... YOU'RE...
IF YOU WEREN'T YOU... IF YOU WERE A DIFFERENT GIRL, THEN..
...I WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU..


...SO YOU DON'T HAVE...TO...
...AH?!

HUH?

POP
YOU'RE FINE THE WAY YOU ARE...
NOM
NOM
NOM
NOM
GULP
DRIP
UH...?
W-WHAT...DID I JUST...?
DRIP
DRIP
W-WHAT I MEAN IS...
DRIP

THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
RUN AWAY!
EMPTY
AH!!

I MEANT ALL OF IT!
I--
I'M NOT LYING!
HUFF HUFF
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HUFF
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

I'M SO HAPPY!!

MISTRESS MIYA! THANK YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR!
UKA-NO-MITAMA
SEEING THE HUMAN WORLD AROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR...
...ALWAYS INSPIRES ME TO MAKE CHOCOLATES!

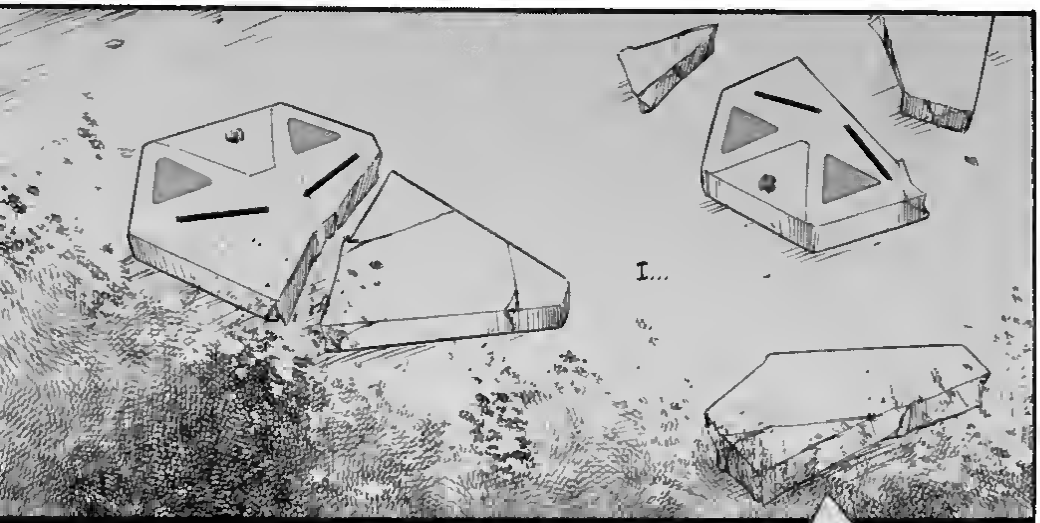
.....
MISTRESS UKA, WELCOME HOME
OH!
PLEASE HAVE SOME CHOCO—
!
DEAR ME, WHAT'S HAPPENED?

I'VE FALLEN...
...IN LOVE WITH...
...A HUMAN BOY...
MISTRESS UKA?
MIYA...
IT WASN'T MY IMAGINATION.
F-FOR THE FIRST TIME
..I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE

I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU. YOU'VE STOLEN MY HEART, YOU CRIMINAL.
OH, TOKA..
WHOA!
I WANTED TO TELL HER PROPERLY SOMEDAY.
GRRR..
MY GIRLS' COMIC SENSES ARE TINGLING!
WORKA-HOLIC
I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK, TO--
--KA?! WHAT HAPPENED?! DID YOU SEE A GHOST AGAIN?
GLOOOM
NOT A GHOST..
DO YOU WANT CHOCOLATE AFTER ALL? I'LL GIVE YOU SOME.
NO, THANKS.
I'M NOT INTERESTED..
..IN FORMALITIES LIKE THAT.

WHEN DID TOKA START WEARING GLASSES?
WAS IT BECAUSE OF ALL THE STUDYING?
OR WAS IT FROM PLAYING TOO MANY VIDEO GAMES?
HIS FAILING GRADES AND HIS VISION GETTING WORSE...
...WERE THEY ALL MY FAULT?
AM I THE REASON HE CHANGED?

I'VE CHANGED...


I...

...HAVE FAILED AS
A GODDESS.

I-INARI?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
H-HUH? WHAT...?
I-I'M OKAY.
I THINK I STAYED UP TOO LATE LAST NIGHT. I'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER I GET SOME SLEEP.
ARE YOU SURE?
MAKE SURE YOU GO TO BED EARLY TODAY.
I WILL.

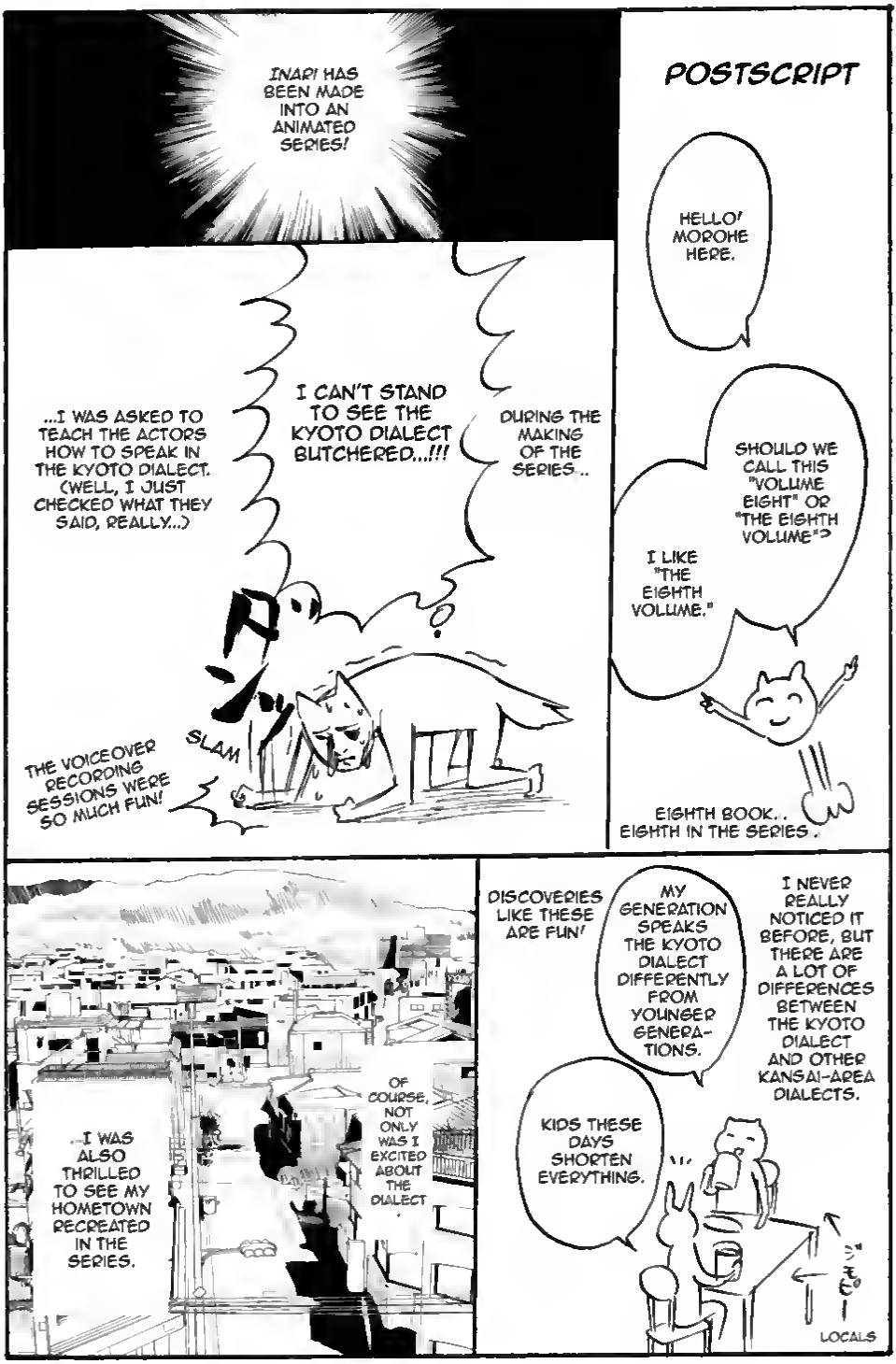
JUST KID-DING..
HEH HEH
I.. SEE..
!!
I-I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN THOUGH I MIGHT BE TOO EXCITED TO SLEEP..
I'M JUST SO HAPPY.
BUT.. NOT TODAY...
I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MISTRESS UKA.
I'M JUST SO IMPOSSIBLY HAPPY.
NO PROBLEM. GOOD NIGHT.
THANKS FOR WALKING ME HOME!
OKAY, SEE YOU TOMORROW!

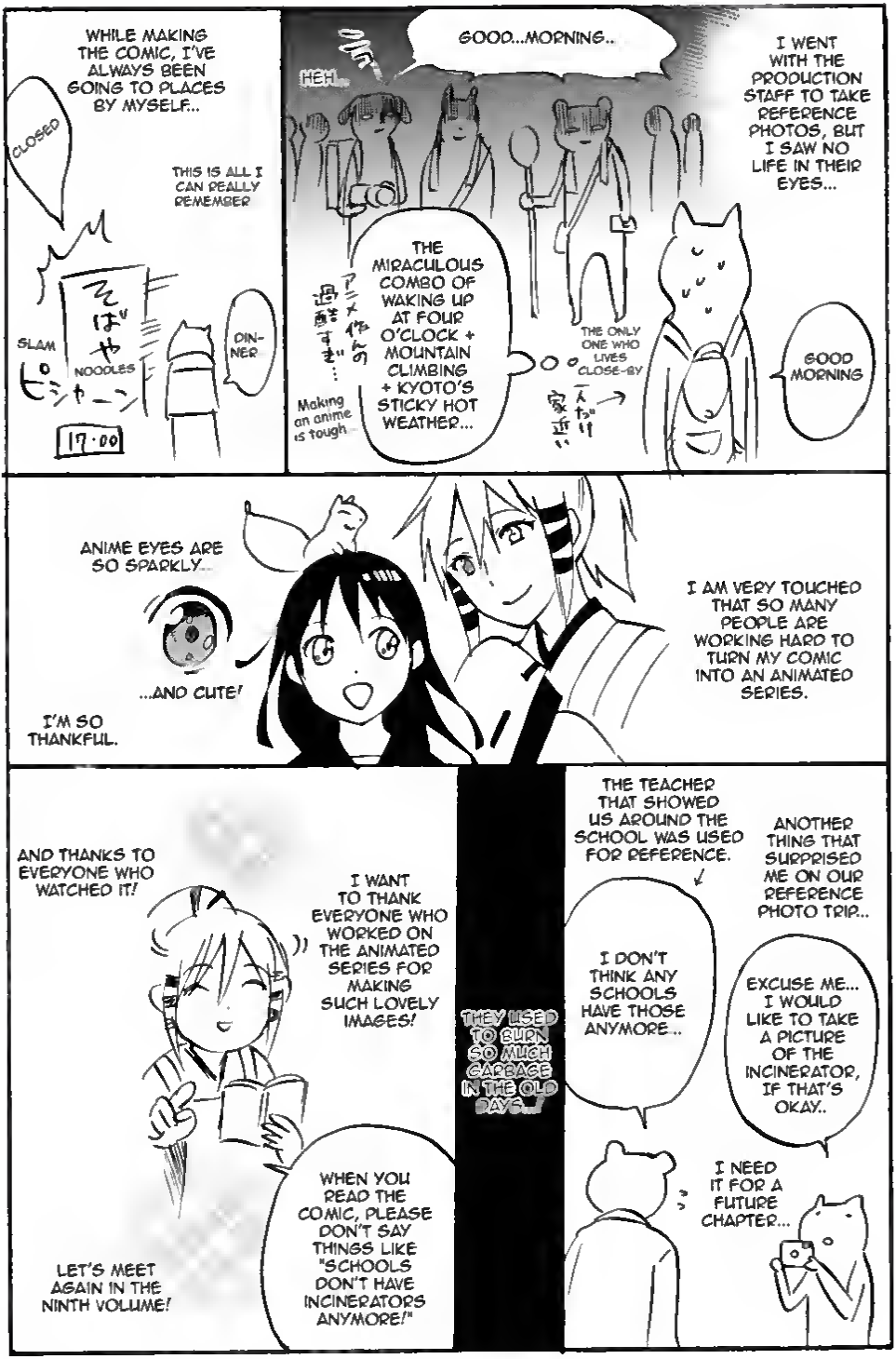
ぴた
...?!

FWUMP
MISS INARI?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS INARI?!
...?

Chapter 40 - END

Inari Konkon


INARI HAS BEEN MADE INTO AN ANIMATED SERIES!
I CAN'T STAND TO SEE THE KYOTO DIALECT BUTCHERED...!!!
DURING THE MAKING OF THE SERIES...
...I WAS ASKED TO TEACH THE ACTORS HOW TO SPEAK IN THE KYOTO DIALECT. (WELL, I JUST CHECKED WHAT THEY SAID, REALLY...)
SLAM
THE VOICEOVER RECORDING SESSIONS WERE SO MUCH FUN!
POSTSCRIPT
HELLO! MOROHE HERE.
SHOULD WE CALL THIS "VOLUME EIGHT" OR "THE EIGHTH VOLUME"?
I LIKE "THE EIGHTH VOLUME."
EIGHTH BOOK.. EIGHTH IN THE SERIES.
...I WAS ALSO THRILLED TO SEE MY HOMETOWN RECREATED IN THE SERIES.
OF COURSE, NOT ONLY WAS I EXCITED ABOUT THE DIALECT.
DISCOVERIES LIKE THESE ARE FUN!
MY GENERATION SPEAKS THE KYOTO DIALECT DIFFERENTLY FROM YOUNGER GENERATIONS.
I NEVER REALLY NOTICED IT BEFORE, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE KYOTO DIALECT AND OTHER KANSAI-AREA DIALECTS.
KIDS THESE DAYS SHORTEN EVERYTHING.
LOCALS


WHILE MAKING THE COMIC, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOING TO PLACES BY MYSELF...
CLOSED
THIS IS ALL I CAN REALLY REMEMBER
そばや
NOODLES
SLAM
DIN-NER
19:00
GOOO...MORNING..
HEH...
I WENT WITH THE PRODUCTION STAFF TO TAKE REFERENCE PHOTOS, BUT I SAW NO LIFE IN THEIR EYES...
THE MIRACULOUS COMBO OF WAKING UP AT FOUR O'CLOCK + MOUNTAIN CLIMBING + KYOTO'S STICKY HOT WEATHER...
Making an anime is tough...
THE ONLY ONE WHO LIVES CLOSE-BY
GOOD MORNING
ANIME EYES ARE SO SPARKLY...
...AND CUTE!
I'M SO THANKFUL.
I AM VERY TOUCHED THAT SO MANY PEOPLE ARE WORKING HARD TO TURN MY COMIC INTO AN ANIMATED SERIES.
AND THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WATCHED IT!
I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO WORKED ON THE ANIMATED SERIES FOR MAKING SUCH LOVELY IMAGES!
WHEN YOU READ THE COMIC, PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE "SCHOOLS DON'T HAVE INCINERATORS ANYMORE!"
LET'S MEET AGAIN IN THE NINTH VOLUME!
THEY USED TO BURN SO MUCH GARBAGE IN THE OLD DAYS...
THE TEACHER THAT SHOWED US AROUND THE SCHOOL WAS USED FOR REFERENCE.
ANOTHER THING THAT SURPRISED ME ON OUR REFERENCE PHOTO TRIP...
I DON'T THINK ANY SCHOOLS HAVE THOSE ANYMORE...
EXCUSE ME... I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE INCINERATOR, IF THAT'S OKAY..
I NEED IT FOR A FUTURE CHAPTER...

Inari Konkon 8

Morohe Yoshida

Is fox meat edible...?
Mistress Uka sometimes feels like she could be my mother.
I'm hungry.
I'm not even married!
I m s o h u n g r y

Inari Konkon
Volume 8

KADOKAWA MANGA

Story and Art by
Morohe Yoshida

INARI KONKON KOI IROHA
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